

9. "dogs" Which Of The Following Is The Correct Possessive Form Of The Bold Word? After Throwing The Tennis

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Understanding the correct possessive form of nouns, especially common words like "dogs," is essential for effective writing and clear communication. In this article, we will explore the various ways to form the possessive of "dogs," clarify common misconceptions, and provide practical examples to help you master this aspect of English grammar.

Introduction to Possessive Forms

Possessive forms in English indicate ownership or association. They are used to show that something belongs to someone or something. For nouns, especially plural nouns like "dogs," the possessive form can sometimes be confusing, leading to errors in both writing and speech.

Understanding the Plural Noun "Dogs"

Before diving into possessive forms, it is important to understand the base noun:

- **Singular noun:** dog
- **Plural noun:** dogs

"Dogs" refers to more than one dog. When expressing possession or relationship for plural nouns that already end with an "s," the possessive is typically formed by adding an apostrophe after the "s."

The Correct Possessive Form of "Dogs"

Standard Rule for Plural Nouns Ending with "s"

For regular plural nouns ending with an "s," the possessive is formed by adding an apostrophe after the final "s." For example:

- The **dogs'** owner called them back.
- The **cats'** toys are scattered around the house.

Applying this rule to "dogs," the correct possessive form is:

1. **dogs'** – indicating that something belongs to or relates to multiple dogs.

Examples of Using "Dogs'" in Sentences

- The **dogs'** collars were all different colors.
- We took the **dogs'** toys out of the yard.
- The **dogs'** barking was loud enough to wake the neighborhood.

Common Mistakes and Misconceptions

Despite clear rules, many writers make errors when forming possessives of plural nouns like "dogs." Here are some common mistakes:

1. Adding an apostrophe before the "s" ("dog's" vs. "dogs'")

- Incorrect: The **dog's** toys are scattered.
- Correct for singular: The **dog's** toy is missing.
- Correct for plural: The **dogs'** toys are scattered.

2. Omitting the apostrophe altogether

- Incorrect: The dogs toys are outside.
- Correct: The **dogs'** toys are outside.

3. Using "dogs's" (double apostrophe and "s")

- Incorrect: The **dogs's** owner is coming.
- Correct: The **dogs'** owner is coming.

Special Cases and Irregularities

While the general rule applies to regular plural nouns ending with "s," there are special cases to consider:

Irregular Plurals

Some nouns have irregular plural forms, and their possessive forms follow different rules:

- Child (singular) → Children (plural) → Children's (possessive)
- Mouse (singular) → Mice (plural) → Mice's (possessive) (though less common in modern usage)

Singular Nouns Ending with "s"

For singular nouns ending with "s," the possessive can be formed either by adding an apostrophe + s or just an apostrophe, depending on style guides:

- The boss's office (more traditional)
- The boss' office (some style guides)

For "dog," which is singular, the possessive is "dog's."

Practical Tips for Correct Possessive Usage

To ensure grammatical accuracy, consider the following tips:

- Identify whether the noun is singular or plural.
- For plural nouns ending with "s," add an apostrophe after the "s" (e.g., dogs').
- If the noun is singular, add an apostrophe + s (e.g., dog's).
- When in doubt, consult style guides like APA, Chicago Manual of Style,

or MLA.

Additional Examples and Practice

Practicing with various sentences helps reinforce the rule:

1. The **dogs'** owner left their leash at home.
2. All the **dogs'** beds are in the kennel.
3. The **dogs'** barking kept the neighbors awake.
4. My neighbor's **dog's** collar is new.

Notice how in example 4, "dog's" is singular possessive, whereas "dogs'" indicates possession by multiple dogs.

Conclusion

Mastering the correct possessive form of "dogs" is straightforward once the basic rules are understood. For plural nouns ending with "s," always add an apostrophe after the "s" to form the possessive: **dogs'**. This rule helps clarify ownership and relationships in your writing, ensuring your sentences are grammatically correct and easily understood.

Remember to pay attention to whether the noun is singular or plural and to consult style guides when in doubt. Proper usage of possessives enhances the clarity and professionalism of your writing, whether in academic, professional, or casual contexts.

By applying these principles, you'll confidently use the correct possessive form of "dogs" and avoid common grammatical pitfalls.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which of the following is the correct possessive form of 'dogs' after throwing the tennis?

The correct possessive form is 'dogs' if referring to multiple dogs, but if

showing possession, it should be 'dogs'' with an apostrophe after the plural noun.

How do you correctly form the possessive of the word 'dogs' in a sentence?

You add an apostrophe after the plural noun: 'dogs'' to indicate possession.

Is 'dogs's' a correct possessive form for plural 'dogs'?

No, 'dogs's' is incorrect. The correct form is 'dogs'' for the possessive plural.

In the sentence 'After throwing the tennis, the dogs' toys scattered,' what is the correct possessive form of 'dogs'?

The correct form is 'dogs'' toys,' indicating the toys belonging to the dogs.

Why is it important to use the correct possessive form of 'dogs' in writing?

Using the correct possessive form clarifies ownership and improves the clarity and professionalism of your writing.

Can you provide an example sentence using the correct possessive form of 'dogs'?

Certainly: 'The dogs' collars were colorful and new.'

Additional Resources

dogs are among the most beloved domesticated animals worldwide, celebrated for their loyalty, intelligence, and companionship. But when it comes to the intricacies of English grammar, especially possessive forms, even common words like "dogs" can cause confusion. A typical question posed by learners and writers alike is: "Which of the following is the correct possessive form of the bold word 'dogs'?" particularly in a sentence context such as "After throwing the tennis...". This article aims to dissect this question thoroughly, exploring the grammatical rules, common misconceptions, and practical applications, all within a detailed, analytical framework.

Understanding Possessive Forms in English

What Is Possession in Grammar?

In English grammar, possession indicates that something belongs to someone or something else. This relationship is often expressed through possessive forms, which modify nouns to show ownership or association. For example, in the phrase "the dog's bone," the possessive form indicates that the bone belongs to the dog.

Possessive forms are essential for clarity and conciseness in communication. They prevent ambiguity about relationships between objects and their owners or creators.

Basic Rules for Forming Possessives

The formation of possessive nouns varies depending on whether the noun is singular or plural:

- Singular nouns: Add an apostrophe + "s" ('s).
Example: dog → dog's
- Plural nouns ending in "s": Add only an apostrophe after the "s".
Example: dogs → dogs'
- Plural nouns not ending in "s": Add an apostrophe + "s".
Example: children → children's
- Irregular plurals: Treat similarly to singular nouns, adding 's'.
Example: mice → mouse's

Understanding these rules is fundamental before analyzing specific questions, such as the correct possessive form of "dogs."

Analyzing the Phrase: "After Throwing The Tennis"

Contextual Clues and Sentence Structure

The phrase "After throwing the tennis" appears incomplete without additional context. Likely, it is part of a larger sentence describing an action involving a tennis ball or racket. For example, "After throwing the tennis

ball, the dog chased it eagerly."

In this context, the word "dogs" might be used to describe possession related to these actions or objects – for example, "the dogs' favorite toy" or "the dogs' owner." The question is about selecting the correct possessive form of "dogs" that fits grammatically and contextually.

Implications for Possessive Forms

Given the phrase, the focus is on understanding how to correctly indicate possession related to "dogs" in a sentence following an action involving a tennis ball. The correct possessive form must align with standard grammatical rules, be contextually appropriate, and be unambiguous.

Determining the Correct Possessive Form of "Dogs"

Options for Possessive Forms

The typical options for the possessive form of "dogs" are:

1. dogs' (with an apostrophe after the "s")
2. dog's (singular possessive)
3. dog's (plural possessive – incorrect in this context if referring to multiple dogs)
4. dogs's (incorrect; redundant and ungrammatical)

Given the plural noun "dogs," the standard possessive form is "dogs'."

Why "dogs'" Is the Correct Choice

- Since "dogs" is plural, the possessive form requires only an apostrophe after the "s."
- "Dogs'" indicates ownership or association with multiple dogs, such as "the dogs' collars" or "the dogs' owner."
- Using "dog's" would imply a singular dog, which would be incorrect if referring to more than one.

Examples of Correct Usage

- The dogs' toys were scattered across the yard.
- I saw the dogs' owner at the park.
- The dogs' barking kept the neighbors awake.

These examples demonstrate how "dogs'" correctly indicates possession by multiple dogs.

Common Misconceptions and Errors

Adding S or S' Incorrectly

A frequent mistake is adding an apostrophe before the "s" – writing "dog's" when referring to multiple dogs, which is incorrect. Conversely, some may omit the apostrophe altogether, resulting in "dogs" used as a possessive adjective, which can cause confusion.

Incorrect examples include:

- dogs's – which is ungrammatical.
- dog's when referring to multiple dogs.

Corrected forms:

- dogs' – plural possessive.
- dog's – singular possessive.

Confusing Singular and Plural Possessives

Learners often confuse "dog's" (singular) and "dogs'" (plural). Context plays a crucial role in selecting the correct form.

- The dog's leash – refers to one dog.
- The dogs' leash – refers to a leash belonging to multiple dogs.

Impact of Context on Possessive Form Selection

In the phrase "After throwing the tennis," if the sentence involves multiple dogs, the correct possessive form is "dogs'." For example:

- Correct: After throwing the tennis, the dogs' owners called them back.
- Incorrect: After throwing the tennis, the dog's owners called them back.
(if referring to multiple dogs)

Practical Application and Examples in Sentences

Examples Using the Correct Possessive Form

1. "After throwing the tennis, the dogs' excitement was palpable."
2. "The dogs' collars were muddy after their play session."
3. "I noticed the dogs' toys scattered across the yard."
4. "The dogs' owner was watching from afar."

Examples with Incorrect Forms and Why They Are Wrong

- After throwing the tennis, the dog's excitement was palpable. (Incorrect if referring to multiple dogs.)
- The dogs's collars were muddy. (Incorrect; the correct form is "dogs'")
- I noticed the dogs's toys scattered in the yard. (Incorrect; should be "dogs'")

Implications for Writing and Communication

Using the correct possessive form enhances clarity and professionalism in writing. Misuse can lead to misinterpretation, especially in formal contexts like reports, articles, or academic writing.

Summary and Final Recommendations

Key Takeaways:

- The plural form of "dog" is "dogs."
- The correct possessive form of "dogs" (plural) is "dogs'."
- When indicating possession for multiple dogs, always use "dogs'" with an apostrophe after the "s."
- For a singular dog, the possessive form is "dog's."
- Be cautious not to add an extra "s" after the apostrophe ("dogs's"), as this is ungrammatical.

Practical Tip:

To determine the correct possessive form, first identify whether the noun is singular or plural. Then, apply the appropriate rule:

- Singular: add 's (e.g., dog's)
- Plural ending in s: add only an apostrophe (e.g., dogs')
- Plural not ending in s: add 's (e.g., children's)

Conclusion

Understanding the correct possessive form of "dogs" is fundamental for clear and grammatically accurate communication. In the context of the phrase "After throwing the tennis," when referring to multiple dogs, the correct possessive form is "dogs'." Recognizing and applying the grammatical rules governing possessive nouns ensures precision in both spoken and written English. Whether discussing ownership, relationships, or associations involving dogs or any other plural noun, adherence to these rules fosters effective and unambiguous expression.

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