



## Common Mistakes

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The possessive S is a difficult structure. It is easy to make mistakes.

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Mixing up the verb “to be” and the possessive S

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### Mixing up the verb TO BE and the possessive S

The possessive S and the contracted verb "to be" are written in the same way, but the meaning is different.

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### Mixing up the verb TO BE and the possessive S

The structure for the verb to be is....

subject

verb to be

adjective  
noun

She

is

happy

She

's

happy

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### Mixing up the verb TO BE and the possessive S

The structure for the possessive S is ...

Name

apostrophe

s

object

Bart

,

s

mother

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## Mixing up singular and plural

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## Mixing up singular and plural

An S is also added to create the plural form of a word but there is no apostrophe.

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## Mixing up singular and plural

The plural form adds S with no apostrophe

noun

s

Two

house

s

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

We need to see the noun before the possessive S so we can understand it correctly.

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The girl's desks



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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The **girl's** desks



In this sentence there is one girl

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The girl's **desks**

She is the owner of plural desks



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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

Now let's look at a different sentence, which is very similar  
but the definition is very different!

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The girls' desks



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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The girls' desks



In this sentence there are plural girls

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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The girls' desks

Plural girls are the owners of the  
desks



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## Misunderstanding the possessive S

The apostrophe is in a different place and the definition changes.

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