

## Singular & Possessives

### **SINGULAR NOUNS**

Add 's to make a SINGULAR noun possessive.

#### ***One – Word Possessives***

The **dentist's** desk is on wheels. (one dentist)

We do not believe the **witness's** testimony. (one witness)

Please send the **technician's** reports to the lab. (one technician)

The **city's** need for extra funds has not been met (one city)

**Mr. Hawkes's** office is in Visalia. (one Mr. Hawkes)

#### **EXCEPTION**

If adding an apostrophe plus *s* to a *singular* noun makes the word hard to say, just add an apostrophe. Choose this alternative only for a singular proper noun with two or more syllables that ends with an *s* sound.

**Mr. Stettinius'** wife was not active in Washington social life.

**Joyce Simmons'** office is on the main floor.

**Moses'** journey is described in the Bible.

**Steinmetz'** discoveries made him famous.

#### ***Compound Singular Possessives***

If a compound noun is possessive, add the apostrophe and *s* to the end.

All words, whether individual words or compounds, form possessives at the end, not somewhere in the middle.

The reporters were amused by the **editor in chief's** remarks.

My **brother-in-law's** appetite amazes me.