**Possessive Form**

The possessive form shows ownership. We usually **add an** **apostrophe and an s (’s)** for the possessive form, though there are exceptions. The guidelines below indicate when.

**Nouns: Add an apostrophe and an s (‘s) to indicate possession**

**With singular nouns, add an apostrophe and an s (’s),** regardless of the final consonant of the noun.

Examples: Amber**’s** poem, Lee**’s** leather jacket, Kylen**’s** part-time job.

And also: Jess**’s** paper, the boss**’s** chair, James**’s** engagement.

**With plural nouns that do not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s (’s).**

Examples: The children**’s** candy, the women**’s** protest, the men**’s** Ultimate Frisbee game.

**With plural nouns that end in s, add only an apostrophe (’).**

Examples: the dorms’ regulations, the writers’ organization, the parents’ rules.

**To show that multiple nouns have joint ownership of an item, add an apostrophe and an s (’s) to**

**the last noun only.**

Example: Molly, Emily, and Matt’s discussion group.

**To show multiple nouns and separate ownership, add an apostrophe and an s (’s) to each noun.**

Examples: Emily**’s** and Elizabeth**’s** cars, Amber**’s** and Lee**’s** research papers.

**Pronouns** (words that take the place of nouns) **do not use apostrophes** to show possession, with the following pronouns: **my and mine, our and ours, her and hers, his, their and theirs, who and whose.**

**My** collie had puppies; the collie is **mine**.

**Our** dorm room is a gathering place; the noisy dorm room is **ours**.

**Her** score was the highest grade; the highest grade was **hers**.

**His** new iPhone is silver; the silver iPhone is **his**.

**Their** vacation was well-deserved; that vacation house is **theirs**.

**Who** left this notebook behind? **Whose** notebook is this?

**Exception-**with **indefinite pronouns** (such as one, someone, and anyone) **add an apostrophe**

**and an s:** One**’s** rights, someone**’s** paper, anyone**’s** guess.

**A common error is to confuse it’s and its: It’s** is a contraction that means “It is.” **Its** indicates

possession; no apostrophe **(‘)** is used.

Work Cited

Harris, Muriel. *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.