

Lesson 4

Can I use apostrophes for possession?

Fast Five

Place a semi-colon in the correct place for each sentence below:

- 1) My hair is very wet I have just washed it.
- 2) I always recommend Nandos they have a great menu.
- 3) Climbing a mountain shouldn't be done when it is raining the rocks become slippery.
- 4) Some people love basketball other people can't stand it.
- 5) Our goal was to run eight miles we only ran four miles

Fast Five **Answers**

Place a semi-colon in the correct place for each sentence below:

- 1) My hair is very wet; I have just washed it.
- 2) I always recommend Nandos; they have a great menu.
- 3) Climbing a mountain shouldn't be done when it is raining; the rocks become slippery.
- 4) Some people love basketball; other people can't stand it.
- 5) Our goal was to run eight miles; we only ran four miles

Use of apostrophes

- **Apostrophes can be used in two key ways.**
- **Contractions** – to replace missing letters

e.g. I **can't** do my homework instead of I **can not** do my homework.

You **won't** be going to school today instead of you **will not** be going to school today.

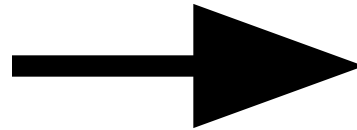
To show possession.

e.g. Laura's homework is excellent instead of the homework belonging to Laura is excellent.

The guitar of Josh

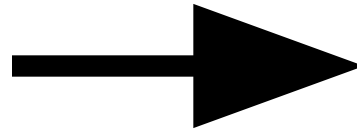
Rule

Find the
owner



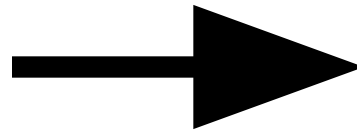
Josh

Add the
apostrophe



Josh'

Add the **s** if
there isn't
one



Josh's guitar

The car of the woman

Rule

Find the
owner

woman

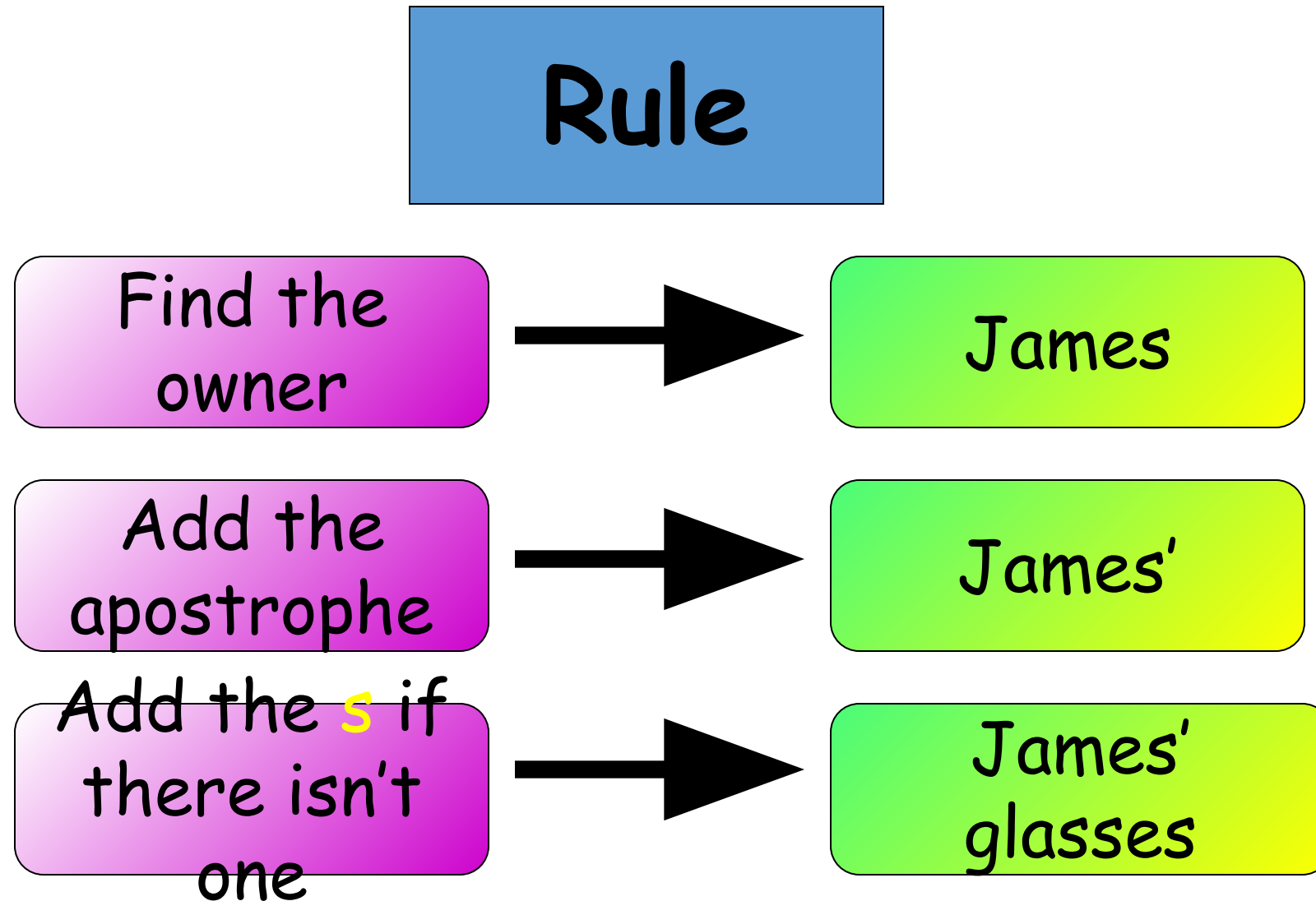
Add the
apostrophe

woman'

Add the **s** if
there isn't
one

The woman's
guitar

The glasses of James (there is already an 's' at the end of James).



Further examples.

Oliver's book bag – the book bag belongs to Oliver.

Bob's football boots – the boots belong to Bob.

Julie's toy dalek – the dalek belongs to Julie.

Thomas' pet dog – the pet dog belongs to Thomas

When things belong to more than one person;

When more than one person is involved, the apostrophe comes after the 's'.

The boys' cloakroom – more than one boy.

The players' changing room – more than one player.

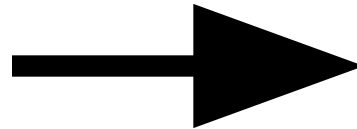
The teachers' staffroom – more than one teacher.

The rule we looked at before still applies. If there is already an 's' at the end of the word we only need to put an apostrophe. No extra 's' is needed.

The car of my parents

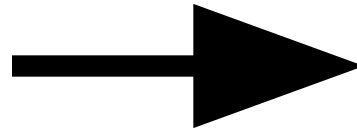
Rule

Find the
owner



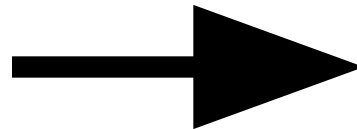
my parents

Add the
apostrophe



my parents'

Add the **s** if
there isn't
one



my parents' car

Can you put the apostrophe in the right place?

Janes shoes

Nicks new car

The cats whiskers (one cat)

The horses stables (6 horses)

The raiders boat (lots of raiders)

Can you put the apostrophe in the right place? Answers

- Jane's shoes.
- Nick's new car
- The cat's whiskers.
- The horses' stables.
- The raiders' boat.

Common mistakes

Mistake

Fish and chip's

The car's were on the road.

Half price clothe's

Lucys book's were on the table.

Correction

Fish and chips

The cars were on the road.

Half price clothes

Lucy's books were on the table.

In these cases the noun is just a plural and doesn't own anything.