

NOUN POSSESSIVE

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- The –s possessive especially (_s sg ps) has three allomorphs which are:
- /s/ charlotte's dress
- /z/..... The girl's dress
- /ɪz/ George's bag



POSSESSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- Although the term (possessive) is used to refer to the relationship between the possessive noun and the noun that follows, but it's not always the relationship of the owner and what he/she owns. That is why the term possessive is not a satisfactory term for the (-s sg ps) or (-s pl ps) because there are different semantic relationships between the possessive noun and the noun that follows. These relationships include the following:
 - 1-Possession or belongingness
 - 2-Characterization or description
 - 3-Origin
 - 4-Measure
 - 5-Subject of act
 - 6-Object of act



• 1- Possession or belongingness

- Sara's phone (the phone belongs to Sara)
- My daughter's bag (the bag belongs to my daughter)
- Sam's garden (the garden belongs to Sam)
- Peter's son (the son belongs to Peter)

• 2- Characterization or description (the second noun is described)

- A boy's haircut (a haircut specific for boys)
- A summer's day (a day of summer)
- A cowboy's walk (a walk of a cowboy)



• 3- Origin

- Shakespeare's plays (plays written (originated) by Shakespeare)
- Al-Sayyab's poetry (poetry written (originated) by Al-Sayyab)
- Ralph's paintings (paintings drawn (originated) by Ralph)

• 4- Measure (time, value, space)

- An hour's wait (time)
- A dollar's worth (value)
- A hair's breadth (space)
- Ten days' absence (time)



• 5- subject of act

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- The judge's decision (the judge decided)
- Tom's confession (Tom confessed)
- The parents' consent (the parents consented)

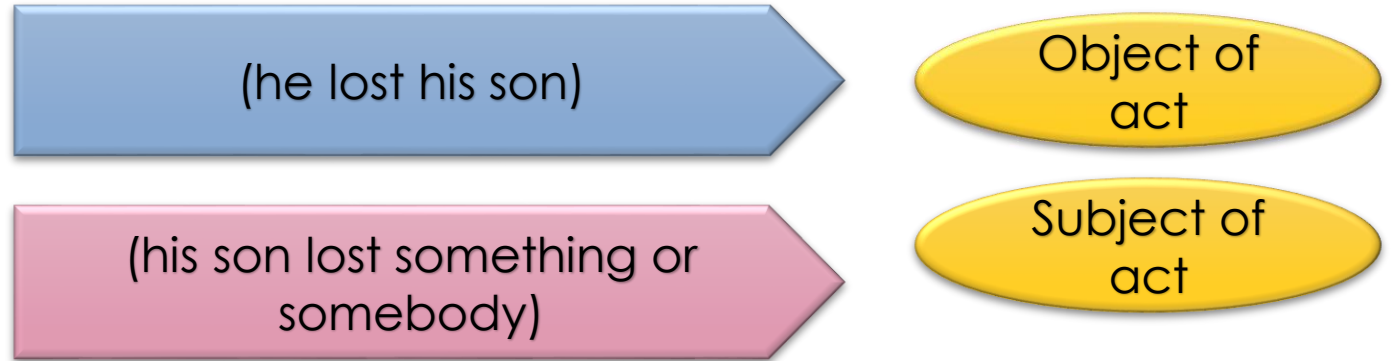
• 6- object of act

- Jane's punishment was deserved. (someone punished Jane)
- Eliot's critics are many. (some people criticized Eliot)
- The boy's release made his father happy. (someone released the boy)



- **Note:** a noun possessive is ambiguous when it expresses more than one semantic relationship

- His son's loss grieved him.



- He carried a woman's coat on his arm.

