Possessives

Possession is most often shown by adding "-'s" to the relevant noun. However, possessive pronouns (like his, hers, its, ours, yours, and theirs) do not require an additional apostrophe-'s".

Singular nouns

To indicate possession for singular nouns, add "-'s".

The child's toys were scattered across the floor after his play date.  
As I looked through the glass, I noticed that the walrus's eyes were fixed on me.

Plural nouns

To indicate possession for plural nouns that do not end with an "s", add "-'s".

The men's clothes are reasonably priced at this store.  
I must confess that I do not always understand people's choices.

To indicate possession for plural nouns that end with an "s", add an apostrophe only.

These young girls' outfits were almost identical.  
My students' feedback really helped me improve my lectures.

Compound nouns

To indicate joint possession, add "-'s" to the last noun of the list.

Are we going to Jim and Pam's cottage this summer? (They both own the cottage.)  
Be careful: the table and chair's legs are fragile. (They are both fragile.)

To indicate individual possession, add "-'s" to each noun of the list.

Brian's and Wanda's tools are broken. (They each have their own tools.)  
The dog's and cat's toys were hidden underneath my pillow. (They each have their own toys.)