



EasyWay
to learn

SAXON GENITIVE OR POSSESSIVE 'S.

Unit 64

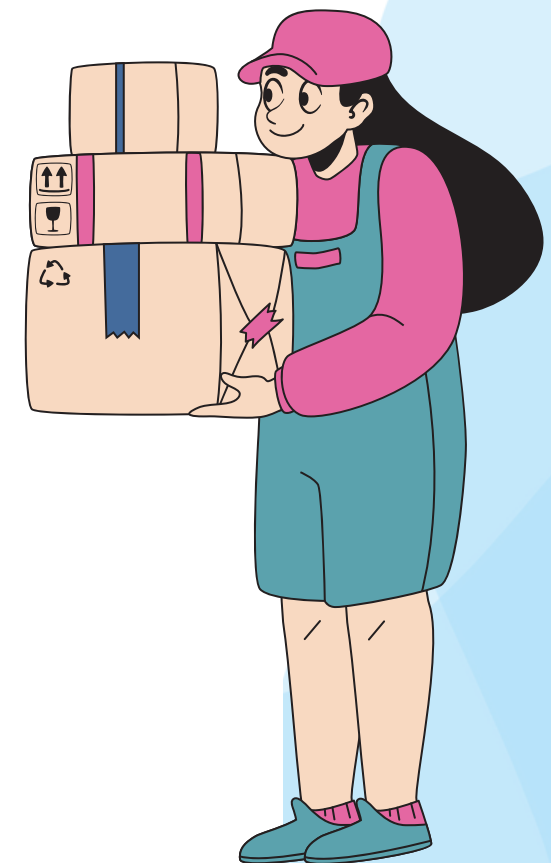
JOHN'S PHONE



What is the Saxon Genitive?

The Saxon Genitive is formed by adding an apostrophe (') and an "s" to the end of the possessor (the person or thing that owns something). It's mainly used with:

- People: John's car
- Animals: The dog's bone
- Organizations (sometimes): The company's profits
- Places (sometimes): London's streets
- Time (sometimes): Yesterday's news



Structure

Possessor + 's + Possessed Item

- **Possessor:** This is the noun (person, animal, organization, etc.) that owns or is associated with something.
- **'s:** This is the apostrophe and "s" (or just an apostrophe in some cases) that indicates possession.
- **Possessed Item:** This is the noun that is owned or associated with the possessor.

Example:

- John's car (John is the possessor, car is the possessed item)



Main Rules for Forming the Saxon Genitive

- **Singular nouns: Add 's to the end of the singular noun.**
 - The boy's toy
 - Mary's book
- **Regular plural nouns (ending in -s): Add only an apostrophe (') after the final "s."**
 - The boys' toys
 - The students' books
- **Irregular plural nouns (NOT ending in -s): Add 's to the end of the plural noun.**
 - The children's toys
 - The men's meeting
 - The women's restroom

Main Rules for Forming the Saxon Genitive

- **Proper names ending in -s:** There are two options, although adding only the apostrophe is more common in British English, while American English prefers adding 's.

–James' car or James's car

–Chris' bike or Chris's bike

- **Joint possession (two or more possessors sharing one item):** If two or more people own something together, add 's only to the last name.

–John and Mary's house

Main Rules for Forming the Saxon Genitive

Individual possession (two or more possessors owning separate items): If two or more people own different things, add 's to each name.

–John's car and Mary's bicycle

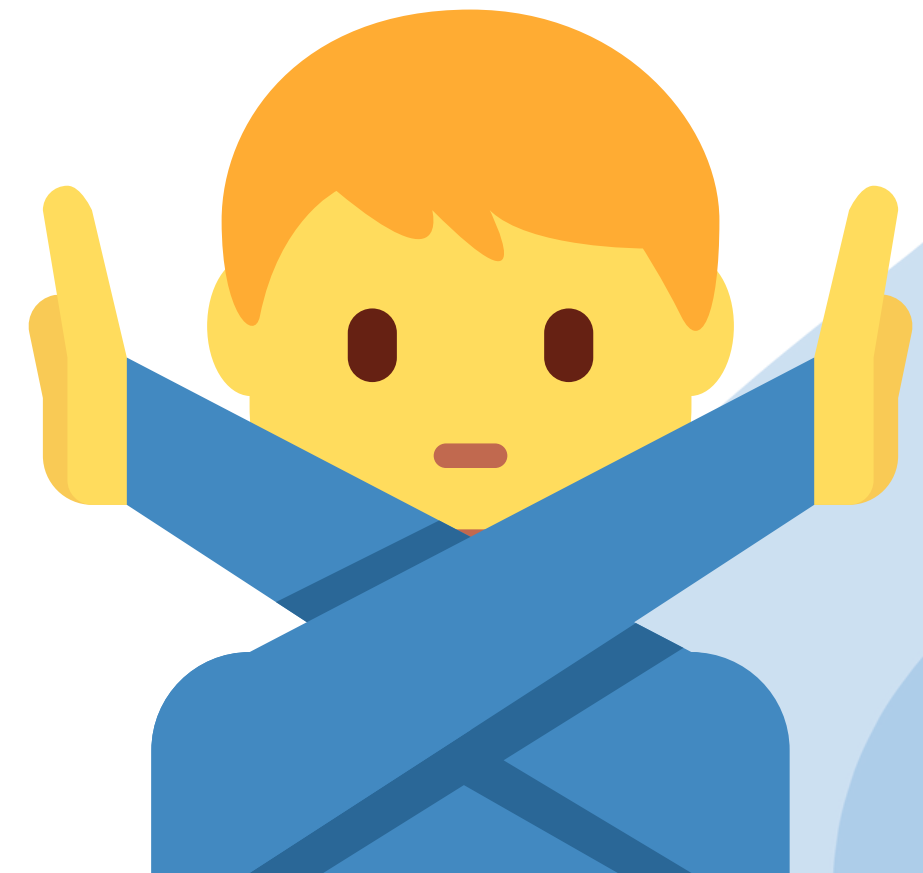
Compound nouns: Add 's to the end of the compound noun.

–My mother-in-law's car

When NOT to Use the Saxon Genitive

Generally, you don't use the Saxon Genitive with inanimate objects that are not places, organizations, or time concepts. In these cases, you use the preposition "of."

- Incorrect: The table's leg
- Correct: The leg of the table
- Incorrect: The car's door
- Correct: The door of the car



Exceptions where 's IS used with inanimate objects

- **Places:** London's museums, The city's center
- **Organizations:** The company's policy, The government's decision
- **Expressions of time:** Yesterday's newspaper, A week's holiday
- **Expressions of money:** A dollar's worth
- **Expressions of weight and measure:** A meter's length
- **Certain idiomatic expressions:** For heaven's sake





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Thanks!

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