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Scientific Writing Resources

Words and phrases that can confuse

'S - S'

English Scientific Writing Importance
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'S - S'

We use this form when we want to indicate possession. It can be used with three groups:

People

Animals

Time

That is John's book

*This is the dog's ball
A one week's holiday*

We use the 'S with:

Singular regular nouns: boy boy's

Singular irregular nouns: man man's

Plural irregular nouns: men men's

But with plural regular nouns: boys boys'

We use this form in these circumstances:

1. **That is John's house** (*the thing "possessed" is immediately after*)
2. **That is my house this is John's** (*to not mention again a noun previously mentioned, "house"*)
3. **I must go to the mechanic's** (*with many names of professions there is no name for the place where they work so this form indicates "the place where ***** works"*)
4. **Tonight we will go to John's** (*the place where John lives, sometimes also works*)

Personification: *non-human things are described as having human attributes.*

Rome, she is a beautiful city.

Thus, we can say: Rome's gardens

Any other uses are exceptions. **The wall of the cell.** But we can now find:

The cell's wall.

When these are used a lot and you find them printed, they are acceptable.



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- ...where k is **Boltzmann's** constant and T is the temperature...
- Subduction controls the distribution and fragmentation of **Earth's** tectonic plates.
- ...the conservation value of the **world's** remaining primary forests...
- We then calculated each **cell's** conservation value.
- ...the **gradient's** mid-point and lower and upper bounds...
- **Fisher's** exact $P < 7.90 \times 10^{-5}$.
- ...according to the **manufacturer's** instructions.
- Boston **Children's** Hospital.
- **Student's** t-test.
- **Shinya Yamanaka's** *discovery spurred thousands of publications...*
- ...the **experts'** meeting scheduled a mere six hours of discussions on science and technology...
- ...inactivated the **animals'** sympathetic nervous systems...
- **Countries'** existing promises regarding emissions reductions...
- ...HHS proposal would require **participants'** consent to use stored samples...
- It includes a trial of blinding reviewers to **authors'** identities.
- ...if the paper was published, the **reviewers'** names were made public.
- Another groundbreaking feature of McDonald and **colleagues'** work...
- ...cover the length of the **cells'** radially projecting dendrites in rabbits,
- ...the HMO content of **mothers'** milk correlates with infant growth...
- ...following the **manufacturers'** instructions.