Grammar 6.- Possessive ´s

a- Spelling:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular noun + ´s</th>
<th>His sister´s bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plural noun + ´</td>
<td>My teachers´ classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular plural + ´s</td>
<td>Women´s rights</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- We sometimes just add an apostrophe (´) to a singular noun ending in -s:

  Chris´ phone but Chris´s phone is more common.

- We can use ´s after more than one noun:

  Paul and Mary´s baby

- We can use ´s without a following noun:

  Your car is bigger than Jack´s (= Jack´s car)

- We can also add ´s to a whole phrase:

  the boy next door´s bike

b- Pronunciation:

The ending ´s is pronounced like a plural ending. The apostrophe (´), in a form like teachers´, does not change the pronunciation.

c- Use

- We use the possessive structure when the first noun is the name of something living:

  Peter´s book       the cat´s tail

In other cases, we often use a structure with of:
the title of the book.

We can also say the book’s title, but it is safer and more usual to use ...of...

- We can usually use ’s when the first noun is an organisation, a group of people:
  the company’s campaign (the campaign of the company is correct too).

- It is also possible to use ’s with places:
  Italy’s beautiful monuments

- Possessives are not usually used together with other determiners:
  John’s garden (NOT The John’s garden)

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Exercises:

I) In this exercise you have to join two sentences to make one. You have to use ’s or an apostrophe (’).

1- My parents have got a country house. The country house is in the mountain.
   _________________________________________________________________

2- We´ve got a dog. His name is Ron.
   _________________________________________________________________

3- Jenny and Mary have got a penfriend. He often writes to them.
   _________________________________________________________________

4- The children have got new toys. They´re in a box.
   _________________________________________________________________
5- Mr. Smith has got a daughter. She studies at university.

6- Charles has got a car. It’s a Ferrari.

7- Spain has got a new government. It was elected a year ago.

8- Jack and Kate have got a garden. It’s really beautiful.

9- Those men have got beards. Their beards are white.

10- My cat has got large eyes. They’re green.

11- Ulises has got a new bike. It’s a mountain bike.

12- Greenpeace has a lot of members. They are all over the world.

13- John and Mary have had a baby. It was born yesterday.

14- Carol has got an uncle. Her uncle lives in Almería.
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Exercises: Answer key

I)

1- My parents’ country house is in the mountain.

2- Our dog’s name is Ron.

3- Jenny and Mary’s penfriend often writes to them.

4- The children’s new toys are in a box.

5- Mr. Smith’s daughter studies at university.

6- Charles’s / Charles’ car is a Ferrari.

7- Spain’s new government was elected a year ago.

8- Jack and Kate’s garden is really beautiful.

9- Those men’s beards are white.

10- My cat’s large eyes are green.

11- Ulises’s new bike is a mountain bike.

12- Greenpeace’s members are all over the world.

13- John and Mary’s baby was born yesterday.

14- Carol’s uncle lives in Almería