



Possessive 's: Saxon Genitive vs Of-Genitive & Special Forms

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. The ____ is broken.
a) tables leg
b) table leg's
c) leg of the table
d) table's leg
2. I drove my ____ car to work.
a) brother-in-law's
b) brother's-in-law
c) brother-in-laws'
d) brothers-in-law's
3. Tom and Jerry share a flat. It's ____.
a) Tom's and Jerry's flat
b) Tom and Jerry flat
c) Tom's and Jerry flat
d) Tom and Jerry's flat
4. The ____ was very interesting.
a) film's end
b) end of the film
c) films end
d) film end's
5. I have an appointment at the ____.
a) dentist's
b) dentists
c) dentist
d) dentists'
6. Anna and Ben have separate offices. ____ are on different floors.
a) Anna and Ben's offices
b) Annas and Bens offices
c) Anna's and Ben's offices
d) Anna and Ben offices'
7. We don't know ____.
a) the fire's cause
b) the fires cause
c) the fire cause's
d) the cause of the fire
8. My ____ garden has beautiful flowers.
a) mother's-in-law
b) mother-in-laws'
c) mother-in-law's
d) mothers-in-law's
9. Please turn to the ____ for the answers.
a) page's bottom
b) bottom of the page
c) pages bottom
d) page bottom's
10. I'm going to pick up my suit from the ____.
a) dry cleaners
b) dry cleaner's
c) dry cleaner
d) dry cleaners'
11. Mark and Lisa wrote separate reports. ____ were both excellent.
a) Mark's and Lisa's reports
b) Mark and Lisa's reports
c) Marks and Lisas reports
d) Mark and Lisa reports'

12. I can't find the ____ anywhere.
- a) car's keys
b) cars keys
c) keys to the car
d) car keys'
13. Have you met my ____ wife?
- a) ex-husbands'
b) ex-husband's
c) ex's-husband
d) ex-husbands
14. Kate and William have a dog together. It's ____.
- a) Kate and William's dog
b) Kate's and William's dog
c) Kate and Williams dog
d) Kates and Williams dog
15. The ____ was damaged in the storm.
- a) buildings roof
b) building roof's
c) roof of the building
d) building's roof
16. We need to buy bread. Let's go to the ____.
- a) bakers
b) baker
c) bakers'
d) baker's
17. Do you like ____ paintings?
- a) Picasso's
b) Picassos
c) Picasso
d) Picassos'
18. The ____ is very strong.
- a) paints colour
b) colour of the paint
c) paint's colour
d) paint colour's
19. My ____ house is next to the park.
- a) father's-in-law
b) father-in-laws'
c) fathers-in-law's
d) father-in-law's
20. Sam and Lily each have a cat. ____ are both ginger.
- a) Sam and Lily's cats
b) Sam's and Lily's cats
c) Sams and Lilys cats
d) Sam and Lily cats'



Answers

1. c) leg of the table
2. a) brother-in-law's
3. d) Tom and Jerry's flat
4. b) end of the film
5. a) dentist's
6. c) Anna's and Ben's offices
7. d) the cause of the fire
8. c) mother-in-law's
9. b) bottom of the page
10. b) dry cleaner's
11. a) Mark's and Lisa's reports
12. c) keys to the car
13. b) ex-husband's
14. a) Kate and William's dog
15. c) roof of the building
16. d) baker's
17. a) Picasso's
18. b) colour of the paint
19. d) father-in-law's
20. b) Sam's and Lily's cats



Explanations

1. “leg of the table” (c)

For inanimate objects, we normally use 'of': the leg of the table, not the table's leg.

2. “brother-in-law's” (a)

For compound nouns, add 's to the last word: brother-in-law → brother-in-law's car.

3. “Tom and Jerry's flat” (d)

When two people share one thing, add 's only to the last name: Tom and Jerry's flat.

4. “end of the film” (b)

For things (film), we prefer 'of': the end of the film.

5. “dentist's” (a)

'At the dentist's' is a fixed expression meaning 'at the dentist's office/surgery'. The place noun is dropped but 's remains.

6. “Anna's and Ben's offices” (c)

When two people own separate things, add 's to each name: Anna's and Ben's offices.

7. “the cause of the fire” (d)

For inanimate things, use 'of': the cause of the fire.

8. “mother-in-law's” (c)

Compound noun — add 's to the last word: mother-in-law's garden.

9. “bottom of the page” (b)

For inanimate objects (page), use 'of': the bottom of the page.

10. “dry cleaner's” (b)

'The dry cleaner's' (= the dry cleaner's shop) is a fixed expression where the place noun is dropped.

11. “Mark's and Lisa's reports” (a)

Separate reports = separate possession. Add 's to each name: Mark's and Lisa's reports.

12. “keys to the car” (c)

For things, we avoid 's. 'The keys to the car' or 'the car keys' (compound noun) are natural.

13. “ex-husband's” (b)

Compound noun — add 's to the last word: ex-husband's wife.

14. “Kate and William's dog” (a)

Joint possession (one shared dog) — add 's only to the last name: Kate and William's dog.

15. “roof of the building” (c)

For inanimate objects (building), we prefer 'of': the roof of the building.

16. “baker's” (d)

'The baker's' (= the baker's shop) is a fixed expression where the place noun is dropped.

17. “Picasso's” (a)

For people, we use 's: Picasso's paintings. This is natural for artists and their works.

18. “colour of the paint” (b)

For inanimate things (paint), use 'of': the colour of the paint.

19. “father-in-law's” (d)

Compound noun — add 's to the end: father-in-law's house.

20. “Sam's and Lily's cats” (b)

Separate cats = separate possession. Add 's to each name: Sam's and Lily's cats.