



Possessive 's:

Possessive Case: Time Expressions & Double Genitive

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I need ___ rest before the exam.
a) a good night's
b) a good nights
c) a good nights'
d) a good night
- That painting is _____.
a) a masterpiece of Monet
b) a Monet's masterpiece
c) a masterpiece of Monet's
d) a masterpiece Monet's
- She gets ___ holiday every year.
a) four week's
b) four weeks'
c) four weeks
d) four-weeks
- Is David a ___ of yours?
a) friend's
b) friends
c) friends'
d) friend
- The project requires ___ work.
a) a years
b) a year's
c) a year
d) a years'
- I met ___ at the party last night.
a) a colleague Sarah's
b) a Sarah's colleague
c) a colleague of Sarah's
d) a colleague's of Sarah
- The hotel offers a ___ spa package.
a) three-day
b) three day's
c) three days
d) three-days'
- This idea was _____.
a) a Peter's suggestion
b) a suggestion Peter's
c) a suggestion of Peter
d) a suggestion of Peter's
- He was given ___ notice before being dismissed.
a) a month's
b) a months
c) a months'
d) a month
- The ___ toys are all over the living room.
a) childrens'
b) childrens
c) children's
d) child's

11. We live within ____ of the station.
 a) ten minute's walk
 b) ten minutes walk
 c) ten-minutes walk
 d) ten minutes' walk
12. That cousin ____ is coming to visit us.
 a) James's of
 b) of James's
 c) James of
 d) of Jameses
13. I picked up the medicine at the ____.
 a) chemists
 b) chemist
 c) chemist's
 d) chemists'
14. ____ newspaper is always full of bad news.
 a) Today's
 b) Todays
 c) Todays'
 d) Today
15. Tom and Alice have a shared bank account. It's ____.
 a) Tom's and Alice's account
 b) Tom and Alice account
 c) Tom and Alice's account
 d) Toms and Alices account
16. The job requires at least ____ experience.
 a) three years'
 b) three year's
 c) three years
 d) three-year's
17. I read about it in ____ paper.
 a) yesterdays
 b) yesterday's
 c) yesterdays'
 d) yesterday
18. The ____ of the river is unknown.
 a) river's source
 b) rivers source
 c) river source's
 d) source
19. I'm having dinner at ____ tonight.
 a) my uncle
 b) my uncle's
 c) my uncles
 d) my uncles'
20. She took ____ leave after having her baby.
 a) six month's
 b) six months
 c) six months'
 d) six-months



Answers

1. a) a good night's
2. c) a masterpiece of Monet's
3. b) four weeks'
4. d) friend
5. b) a year's
6. c) a colleague of Sarah's
7. a) three-day
8. d) a suggestion of Peter's
9. a) a month's
10. c) children's
11. d) ten minutes' walk
12. b) of James's
13. c) chemist's
14. a) Today's
15. c) Tom and Alice's account
16. a) three years'
17. b) yesterday's
18. d) source
19. b) my uncle's
20. c) six months'



Explanations

1. “a good night's” (a)

Time expressions use possessive 's: a good night's rest (= the rest of one good night).

2. “a masterpiece of Monet's” (c)

Double genitive: 'of' + noun + 's. We say 'a masterpiece of Monet's' to mean 'one of Monet's masterpieces'.

3. “four weeks” (b)

Plural time expression: weeks (plural, ending in -s) + apostrophe only: four weeks' holiday.

4. “friend” (d)

Double genitive with pronoun: 'a friend of yours'. The word 'friend' is not possessive here — 'yours' already shows possession.

5. “a year's” (b)

Singular time expression: a year → a year's work (= work that takes one year).

6. “a colleague of Sarah's” (c)

Double genitive: 'a colleague of Sarah's' means 'one of Sarah's colleagues'. Use 'of' + name + 's.

7. “three-day” (a)

When a time expression is used as a compound adjective before a noun, use a hyphen with no possessive: a three-day spa package.

8. “a suggestion of Peter's” (d)

Double genitive: 'of' + name + 's. This means 'one of Peter's suggestions'.

9. “a month's” (a)

Singular time expression: a month → a month's notice.

10. “children's” (c)

'Children' is an irregular plural. Add 's: children's toys.

11. “ten minutes' walk” (d)

Plural time expression: minutes (plural) + apostrophe: ten minutes' walk.

12. “of James's” (b)

Double genitive: 'of' + possessive noun. 'That cousin of James's' = one of James's cousins.

13. “chemist's” (c)

'The chemist's' (= the chemist's shop/pharmacy) is a fixed expression.

14. “Today's” (a)

Time words like 'today', 'yesterday', and 'tomorrow' use 's: today's newspaper.

15. “Tom and Alice's account” (c)

Joint possession (one shared account) — add 's only to the last name: Tom and Alice's account.

16. “three years” (a)

Plural time expression: years (plural) + apostrophe: three years' experience.

17. “yesterday's” (b)

Time words take 's: yesterday's paper = the paper from yesterday.

18. “source” (d)

For geographical features, 'of' is natural: the source of the river. The stem already contains 'of the river'.

19. “my uncle's” (b)

'At my uncle's' (= at my uncle's house/place) — the place noun is dropped in this fixed expression.

20. “six months” (c)

Plural time expression: months (plural) + apostrophe: six months' leave.