

## Unit 49: GENITIVE

We sometimes need to describe a noun by using another noun with it. We use this other noun:

- with the **-s** ending ('s for singular, s' for plural);
- with **of** before it;
- as an adjective (Unit 64).

### 1 **-S ending**

We usually use this:

**a** for people:

Tehya's boss	the boss of Tehya
Ahmed's menu	the menu which Ahmed must make
I went to Smokey's	the restaurant where Smokey cooks
this server's ability	ability which this server has
a girls' restroom	a restroom for girls
a children's highchair	chair where children can sit
a smoker's lounge	a place where people who smoke can smoke

**NOTICE:** Plurals without **s** use 's (NOT s').

**b** for **nouns of time:** today's program  
three weeks' holiday  
a few minutes' rest

**NOTICE:** The noun with the **-s** ending goes before the noun it describes.

### 2 **Of**

We use this with most other nouns. For example:

the corners **of** the room      NOT *the room's corners*  
the history **of** Canada  
the capital **of** Alberta

**NOTICE:** The noun with **of** goes after the noun it describes.

### 3 Adjective

We usually use this when we are talking about a type of something.

<b>booster</b> seat	NOT <i>booster's doors</i>
<b>sirloin</b> steak	NOT <i>sirloin's steak</i>
<b>coffee</b> shop	NOT <i>coffee's shop</i>
<b>sous</b> chef	NOT <i>sous's chef</i>
<b>caeser</b> salad	NOT <i>caeser's salad</i>

NOTICE:	a teacup	=	a cup you can use for tea
	a cup of tea	=	a cup with tea in it
	a shopping bag	=	a bag you can use for shopping
	a bag of shopping	=	a bag with shopping in it

### 4 -s ending and of

Normally we say **Maria's cousin** or **John's book** or **my father's friends**, especially if we have already mentioned the cousin or the book or the friends. But if we want to be more indefinite, and especially if we are mentioning them for the first time, we say:

a cousin **of Maria's**                      a book **of John's**                      some friends **of my father's**

We can also use personal pronouns (Unit 50) this way:

an uncle **of mine** (I am not telling you which one.)

BUT the second noun must describe a person. We say:

a corner **of the room** NOT *a corner of the room's*

And we must know which person. We say:

a student's book                      NOT *a book of a student's*