

Uses of *de*

In English An **'s (apostrophe s)** is added to a singular noun to show possession or relationship to one person. In the plural, an apostrophe alone (') is added after the **-s** ending of most plural nouns.

Timmy's books are in his backpack.
 My friend's classes are wonderful.
 The teachers' lounge is empty.
 The girls' basketball team won the championship.

A Complete the following sentences with the possessive forms of the nouns in parentheses.

1. Our _____ teacher's _____ office is full of books. (teacher)
2. My _____ anniversary is tomorrow. (parents)
3. The _____ claws are very sharp! (cat)
4. _____ violin lesson ends at seven. (Kathleen)
5. Your _____ party was so much fun! (friends)
6. That man over there is _____ uncle. (James)
7. Dora saw all the _____ basketball games. (women)
8. My _____ room is very messy. (sister)

In Spanish The word **de** is used to show possession or relationship. Use **de** with singular and plural nouns.

Es la casa **de** mis amigos. *It's my friends' house.*
 Es el profesor **de** mi mejor amiga. *He is my best friend's teacher.*

You can also use **de** to indicate the kind of thing you're describing.

los libros **de** amor *romance books*
 las películas **de** ciencia ficción *science fiction movies*

You use **de** to say where someone is from.

Viviana es **de** Colombia. *Viviana is from Colombia.*

When **de** is followed by the article **el**, both words combine to form the contraction **del**.

Hoy es el cumpleaños **del** profesor. *(de + el profesor)*

B Complete the following sentences with the possessive forms of the nouns in parentheses.

1. Los libros son _____ **de** Marina _____. (Marina)

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- 2. Son los videojuegos _____. (mi mejor amigo)
- 3. Hoy es la fiesta _____. (los estudiantes)
- 4. Es el carro _____. (el señor Rueda).
- 5. ¿Cuál es el correo electrónico _____? (la profesora)
- 6. Es la pizza _____. (el muchacho)
- 7. Ricardo es amigo _____. (los animales)

C Answer the questions using the preposition **de** to say *what kind of* for each noun.

- 1. ¿Qué libros te gustan? (libros / amor)
Me gustan los libros de amor. _____
- 2. ¿Te gustan mucho los libros? (libros / aventuras)

- 3. ¿Te gustan las películas? (películas / misterio)

- 4. ¿Quién es el señor Rodríguez? (profesor / ciencias)

- 5. ¿Te gustan los videojuegos? (videojuegos / ciencia ficción)

- 6. ¿Qué música te gusta? (música / fiestas)

D Translate the following phrases into English.

- a. el libro de aventuras _____
- b. el libro de mi amigo _____
- c. la muchacha de Puerto Rico _____

E In Activity D, how did you translate **de** in each case? What does this difference tell us about the different uses of **de**?
