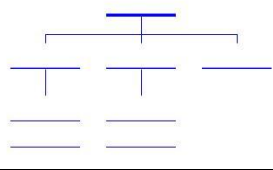


# Thinking Maps: Tools for Learning

This week's  
focus:

## The Tree Map



Purpose:  
Classifying,  
Categorize

Key Words:  
classify  
sort  
group  
categorize  
types of  
kinds of  
list/elaborate

### Thinking process:

This thinking map helps to organize a very common thought process. It helps to sort items into different groups or categories, something that we do frequently to organize new ideas. Items are grouped by similar or common qualities.

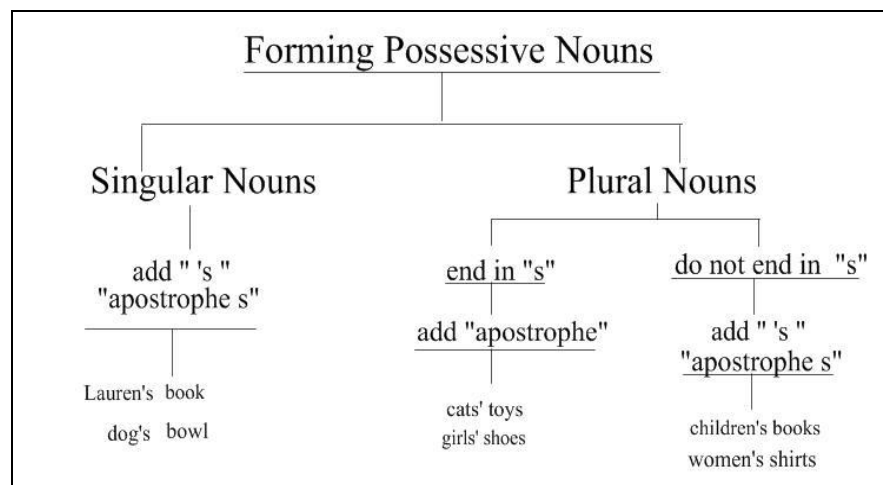
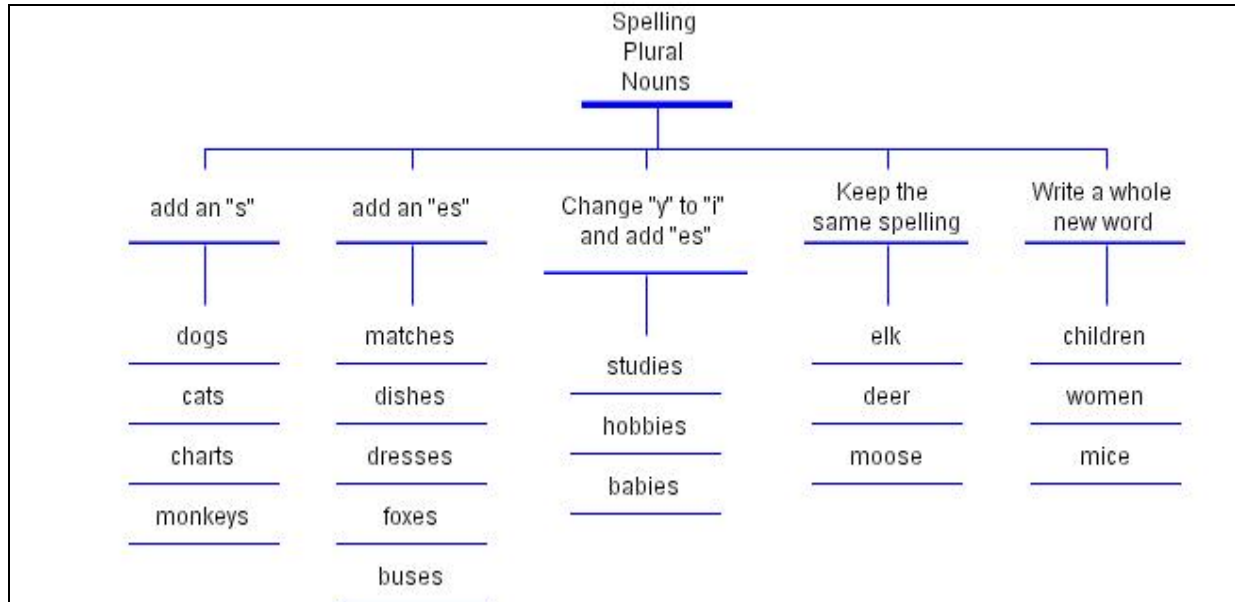
The concepts sorted through a tree map are more conceptual or abstract. The goal is to identify commonalities that will allow us to organize our thoughts.

### How to create this map:

1. Begin by putting the name of the category that you are organizing at the top center of your work space.
2. Below this, draw a horizontal line across the page with "tic" marks showing how many sub-categories there will be.
3. Write the name of the sub-categories under the tic marks and underline them.
4. Under this, you may either separate into further categories or just list the "members of the groups."

Turn over to see examples and suggestions.

Here are examples of tree maps from classrooms.



Sample questions you could ask at home:

Who are your family members from you mom's and dad's side?

What are the responsibilities of each member in your household?

How could you organize your collection of movies, video games, or toys? (Select one.)

Select one of the questions to the left or come up with your own idea of how your child or your family could use this tree map.