Pronoun clues

The position of the possessive apostrophe indicates if there is one or many owners. Pronoun clues in the sentence can also indicate the number of owners.

The teacher was happy with the **students'** progress and rewarded **them** well.

The teacher was happy with the **progress of more than one student** and rewarded **them** very well.

The teacher was happy with the **student's** progress and rewarded **him** well.

The teacher was happy with the **progress of one student** and rewarded **him** very well.

The farmer cleaned the **horse's** stable and gave **it** fresh hay to eat.

The farmer cleaned the **stable of one horse** and gave **it** fresh hay to eat.

The farmer cleaned the **horses'** stable and gave **them** fresh hay to eat.

The farmer cleaned the **stable of more than one horse** and gave **them** fresh hay to eat.

The **swimmers'** coach was delighted when **they** won the relay race.

The **coach of more than one swimmer** was delighted when **they** won the relay race.

The **swimmer's** coach was delighted when **she** won the relay race.

The **coach of one swimmer** was delighted when **she** won the relay race.