

# POSSESSIVE NOUNS

## WRITING ABOUT

A **possessive noun** shows ownership or a connection. To show that a noun owns or is closely connected to someone or something else, you can change the noun to its possessive form.

- Add an apostrophe and *s* (*'s*) to a **singular** noun to make it possessive.

Singular Nouns	Possessive Nouns
the news of the <i>day</i>	the <i>day's</i> news
the keyboard of the <i>computer</i>	the <i>computer's</i> keyboard
the shoes belonging to <i>Chris</i>	<i>Chris's</i> shoes
the signers of the <i>Constitution</i>	the <i>Constitution's</i> signers

- Add only an apostrophe (*'*) to a **plural** noun that ends in *s*.

Plural Nouns	Possessive Nouns
the lockers of the <i>boys</i>	the <i>boys'</i> lockers
the noise of the <i>trucks</i>	the <i>trucks'</i> noise
the gift from the <i>neighbors</i>	the <i>neighbors'</i> gift
the new home of the <i>Smiths</i>	the <i>Smiths'</i> new home

- Add an apostrophe and *s* (*'s*) to a **plural** noun that does not end in *s*.

Plural Nouns	Possessive Nouns
the honking of the <i>geese</i>	the <i>geese's</i> honking
suits for <i>men</i>	<i>men's</i> suits
the footprints of two <i>deer</i>	two <i>deer's</i> footprints

## STUDY A MODEL

Read this description. Possessive nouns are red.



From my bedroom window I can see my friend *Joan's* two birdfeeders. The *birds'* visitors arrive daily. Much of the *birds'* food comes from these two feeders. I've seen birds flutter from the first feeder's sunflower seeds to the second feeder's dried corn. My observations lead me to believe that a *bird's* favorite treat is fruit. The *birds'* and *birds'* cleverness means that the corn is never safe from them. Sometimes, I see a *bird's* acrobatics or a pair of *cardinals'* cautious approach.

- ↳ *Joan* is a singular noun. An *'s* is added to make it possessive.
- ↳ Both *feeders* and *birds* are plural nouns that end in *s*. An apostrophe is added to make them possessive.
- ↳ *Birds'* is a plural possessive noun. *Mice* does not end in *s*, so an apostrophe and *s* are both needed.

# PRACTICE



**A** Write the possessive form of each underlined noun.

1. both students essays
2. a king crown
3. Kim haiku
4. three sheep wool
5. four women careers
6. Ross luggage
7. the storm hailstones
8. some spiders cobwebs

**B** Read each sentence. Use a possessive noun to write each underlined phrase another way.

1. The treasury of the nation has sufficient money.
2. The text by the three authors is a great achievement.
3. The names of several people were left off the list.
4. The applesauce made by Aunt Bess is sweet.
5. The librarian is ordering more books for children.
6. The furnishings belonging to the owners are for sale.

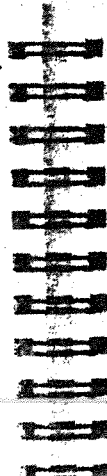
**C** Read the paragraph. Use a possessive noun to write the 8 underlined phrases another way.

The father of Toby announced exciting plans for the day. Toby pictured the two of them borrowing the kayaks belonging to their friends. He imagined paddling to the island at the far end of the lake. They would see cabins of several people on the island. Just then, Dad mentioned the motorboat Uncle James owned. In a flash, the thoughts of the boy shifted. The spray of the icy water would feel refreshing, and Toby would surely impress the passengers in the other boats with his water-skiing.

A possessive noun shows ownership or a connection. To form a possessive, add 's to a singular noun; add ' to a plural noun that ends in s; add 's to a plural noun that does not end in s.

## WRITE

Write a description of a memorable scene. Be sure to form possessive nouns correctly as you write.



### Writing Tip

Pronouns can be possessive too, but possessive pronouns do not have an apostrophe. Use the pronouns *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their* before nouns. Use the pronouns *mine*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, *its*, *ours*, and *theirs* by themselves.

- This is my bookstore.
- The bookstore is mine.

for CHAPTER 13: PUNCTUATION pages 300–301

## Apostrophes with Possessives

**13m.** To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.

EXAMPLES a child's wagon      Robert's coat      the kitten's food

**13n.** To form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.

EXAMPLES the children's toys      women's hats      the mice's cage

**13o.** To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.

EXAMPLES two dogs' tracks      the campers' tent      three days' vacation

**EXERCISE A** On the line provided, rewrite each of the following expressions by using the possessive case. Be sure to add apostrophes where they are needed.

**Example 1.** cars of the students the students' cars

1. the temperature of the patient \_\_\_\_\_
2. a coat that belongs to Mona \_\_\_\_\_
3. nests of the ducks \_\_\_\_\_
4. the boats owned by the women \_\_\_\_\_
5. the doll that belongs to the child \_\_\_\_\_
6. the lid for that box \_\_\_\_\_
7. the health of the goose \_\_\_\_\_
8. the shells of the turtles \_\_\_\_\_
9. shoes that belong to men \_\_\_\_\_
10. coastline of Florida \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE B** One word in each of the following sentences is missing an apostrophe. Underline the word that needs an apostrophe, and write it correctly on the line provided.

**Example** \_\_\_\_\_ traffic's 1. The traffics roar kept us awake.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Mr. Smiths dogs are in the backyard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Velmas twin sisters attend preschool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Have you heard Jeffreys poem?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Those candidates speeches were brief.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The birds cages had been left open.

## Apostrophes in Possessives

Use apostrophes to form the possessive case of singular and plural nouns and to form the possessive case of many indefinite pronouns. Note that possessive personal pronouns do not have apostrophes.

EXAMPLES the dog's bowl

the turtle's shell

the girls' lunches

America's athletes

our house

somebody's pencil

**EXERCISE** On the line provided, rewrite each of the following expressions by using the possessive case. Be sure to add apostrophes where they are needed.

**Example 1.** the houses of the teachers the teachers' houses

1. the dish of the dog \_\_\_\_\_
2. the poems of the women \_\_\_\_\_
3. the raincoat of someone \_\_\_\_\_
4. the cassette of him \_\_\_\_\_
5. the basketball team of the two girls \_\_\_\_\_
6. the games of the children \_\_\_\_\_
7. the computer of the principal \_\_\_\_\_
8. the driveways of them \_\_\_\_\_
9. the dreams of no one \_\_\_\_\_
10. the wings of the geese \_\_\_\_\_
11. the baby of Rosa \_\_\_\_\_
12. the patience of her \_\_\_\_\_
13. the backpacks of the soldiers \_\_\_\_\_
14. the votes of the people \_\_\_\_\_
15. the studios of the artists \_\_\_\_\_
16. the classes of everybody \_\_\_\_\_
17. the color of the wall \_\_\_\_\_
18. the mooing of the cow \_\_\_\_\_
19. the wheelbarrow of us \_\_\_\_\_
20. the flashlight of neither \_\_\_\_\_

# Possessive Nouns

**Possessive nouns** show ownership. To show possession with a singular noun, add an *apostrophe* and an *s*.

Examples: girl's science book, student's locker

With plural nouns ending in *s*, add an *apostrophe* after the *s*.

Examples: boys' homework, teachers' lounge

When a plural noun does not end in *s*, add an *apostrophe* and an *s*.

Examples: mice's cages, women's shoes

Study the sentences below. Then rewrite the sentences correctly, changing possessive nouns as needed.

1. Pauls' bicycle has thick tires and a sturdy frame.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. He uses it to ride up his citys' steep hills.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The other boys bicycles aren't quite as sturdy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Paul often rides alone, near the days end.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Once, a womens' bicycling team passed him on a hill.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The boys' pride was stung, and he was determined to ride faster.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. He trained until his muscles bulged.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. He pumped up his bikes' tires and got ready to go.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul started out on the months chilliest morning.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Halfway up the mountain, a thorns' sharp edges pricked his tire.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Paul changed his tire, using his fathers tools.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Geese stared at the boy.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Paul could hear the geeses' honking for miles around.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. He rode hard, to his hearts delight.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Swiftly, a girls scouting troop passed him on a hill.  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Nouns That Show Possession

A **possessive noun** shows ownership. It tells what or to whom another noun belongs. Here are the rules for writing possessive nouns.

1. **To form the possessive of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and -s.**

teacher's ideas      Charles's bike      dog's bone

2. **To form the possessive of a plural noun that ends in s, simply add an apostrophe after the s.**

jockeys' horses      families' homes      farmers' crops

3. **To form the possessive of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.**

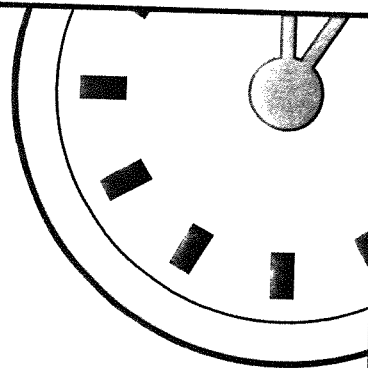
children's museum      women's basketball      deer's enemies

**Writing Possessive Forms of Nouns** Write the possessive form of each of the nouns that are in italics.

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>season</i> greetings _____  | 9. <i>men</i> locker room _____   |
| 2. <i>child</i> imagination _____ | 10. <i>cat</i> toy _____          |
| 3. <i>animal</i> survival _____   | 11. <i>oxen</i> yoke _____        |
| 4. <i>geese</i> flight _____      | 12. <i>directors</i> awards _____ |
| 5. <i>Mexico</i> festival _____   | 13. <i>singer</i> fans _____      |
| 6. <i>woman</i> secret _____      | 14. <i>dwarfs</i> cottage _____   |
| 7. <i>author</i> books _____      | 15. <i>sheep</i> wool _____       |
| 8. <i>baby</i> cradle _____       | 16. <i>cities</i> problems _____  |

**Using Possessives** Write the possessive form of each noun in parentheses.

- Ghosts appear in some of (Shakespeare) plays. \_\_\_\_\_
- The (children) treehouse was a secret meeting place. \_\_\_\_\_
- The monster was created in the (scientist) lab. \_\_\_\_\_
- The (elves) magical powers saved the town from disaster. \_\_\_\_\_
- Sherlock (Holmes) assistant was Dr. Watson. \_\_\_\_\_



# Minute 8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write the singular possessive form to replace the underlined phrase in each sentence.

(Hint: A *singular possessive noun* shows ownership by one person or thing. Adding 's to a noun makes it possessive.)

1. The toy that belongs to the dog is under the couch. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Please give me the bottle that belongs to the baby. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have the baseball that belongs to Trevor? \_\_\_\_\_
4. The stinger of the bee is sharp! \_\_\_\_\_
5. The tail of the puppy wagged and wagged. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The wing of the bird is not broken. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I like the car that belongs to your mother. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The back tire of the bus was flat. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The tracks of that deer led to the garden. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you seen the new haircut of Mom? \_\_\_\_\_

