

Worksheet 2.5: The Apostrophe-Possession

Date: _____

Possessive forms of nouns show belonging or ownership. We put an apostrophe (') after a noun to make its possessive form.

For example: **Omar's pen** is new. The pen belongs to Omar.

Rules to form the possessive form:

Rule 1: Add an apostrophe +s ('s) to singular nouns.

Examples

- The dog's food is in its house.
- My brother's bag is lost.

This rule applies in most cases even with a name ending in 's'.

Examples

- Thomas's job is boring.
- The bus's late arrival is annoying me.
- James's fiancée is cute.


Rule 2: Add only an apostrophe (') after the s to plural nouns that end in s.

E.g. the room of the girls \longrightarrow the girls' room

More examples

- The dogs' food is finished.
- My brothers' boat is broken.


Rule 3: Add an apostrophe +s ('s) to plural nouns that don't end in s

E.g. the books of the children  the children's books

More examples

-The men's shirts are new. -The women's dresses are amazing.

Rule 4: For proper nouns ending in s, you can either add an apostrophe +s ('s) or just an apostrophe ('). The first option is more common.

E.g. The shirt of Thomas  Thomas's shirt OR Thomas' shirt

Rule 5: If two nouns share ownership, add the apostrophe +s ('s) to the second one only.

E.g. The house of Sam and Rita was burnt. Sam and Rita's house was burnt.

But:

If two nouns don't share ownership, each noun gets the ('s).

E.g. The house of Sam and the house of Rita were burnt. Sam's and Rita's houses were burnt.

Let's practice!

1. Add apostrophes (') wherever required in the given sentences.

- a. The teachers table was painted red, which annoyed her very much.
- b. My fathers office is near my mothers shop.
- c. The womens dresses were very expensive even after the discount.
- d. Anil is packing Anu, Reema and Sanjays lunch.
- e. Three boys bikes were parked in the driveway.
- f. Where is Hadeels pencil box?
- g. I put on Pamelas hat by mistake.

2. Underline the possessive noun in each sentence and identify whether it is singular or plural by writing your answer on the lines provided.

- a. The crew obeyed the captain's orders. _____
- b. The ropes' ends were frayed. _____
- c. After the storm, the water's surface was still. _____
- d. Peter put his duffel bag under the lifeboat's seat. _____
- e. Make sure that the cords' knots are tied tightly. _____
- f. The crew's bunks were below deck. _____
- g. All the cabins' doors were locked. _____
- h. The sailors' friends waited for them to come ashore. _____

3. Circle the correct form of the plural possessive noun in each sentence.

- a. The (womans'/women's) ferry ride lasted thirty minutes.
- b. The ship's cook sharpened the (knives'/knifes') blades.
- c. The captain explained that the cargo was (sheeps'/sheep's) wool.
- d. The (mens'/men's) survival was an extraordinary event.
- e. The (wive's/wives') plan to throw a welcome party was a success.

4. Read the following paragraph then answer the questions that follow.

(1) The men's boat is ready to set sail. (2) The men will be away at sea for many days. (3) Their families gather on the dock to wave good-bye. (4) The men kiss their wives and accept their children hugs. (5) One man's family even brings the dog to say good-bye! (6) The captain's son sounds the boat's horn, and the men begin to board.

- 1. Which of the following has no possessive nouns?
a. sentence 1 b. sentence 2 c. sentence 5 d. sentence 6
- 2. How should the underlined word in **sentence 4** be written?
a. childrens' b. children's c. childs' d. childrens's
- 3. Which is a plural possessive noun?
a. men's b. families c. wives d. man's

4. Which BEST describes the underlined word in **sentence 6**?

- a. singular noun b. singular possessive noun
- c. plural noun d. plural possessive noun

5. How many possessive nouns are in **sentence 6**?

- a. one b. two c. three d. none

6. Which is a singular possessive noun?

- b. men's b. days c. captain's d. sounds

5. Rewrite the sentences. Replace the underlined words with a possessive noun and the word or words that tell what the noun possesses.

1. The coral concert of the boys is at 6 o'clock.

2. The wedding of Jessica and John was extremely wonderful.

3. I read about the lives of women during war times.

4. Rebecca thought the stars and stripes of the flag were a good design.

5. He answered the questions of the children about the Mayflower voyage.
