

Parent Guide



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We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more exciting, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the [Twinkl Parents](#) website.

games



crafts



puzzles



experiments



word searches



What is this resource and how do I use it?

This resource pack contains nine resources to help you and your child learn about possessive apostrophes. First, take a look at A Parent Guide to Using Apostrophes for Possession for some key grammar and punctuation information. Then, see how your child gets on working through the variety of activities in the pack. All answers are included.

What skills does this practise?

Reading

Writing

Grammar

Punctuation

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

There's a whole section of the [Parents' Hub](#) dedicated to [Punctuation](#) which you might find useful. Your child could try some other apostrophe activities, like this [Spot the Apostrophe Worksheet](#) or this [Match the Contractions Game](#), both ideal for younger learners.

Parents Blog



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Homework Help



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Parents Hub

A Parent Guide to Using Apostrophes for Possession

In key stage two (when children are aged 7 - 11), children are expected to correctly use apostrophes for **possession** and **contraction**.

Apostrophes for Possession

Apostrophes are used to show possession when one thing belongs to another.

Examples

the woman's shoes

the dog's food

the teacher's pen

However, the position of the apostrophe (and an additional 's') can vary depending on whether the noun is **singular** or **plural**. It can also differ when the noun itself already ends with an 's'. Use this guide to help you to understand where to place the apostrophe to show possession.



Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

If the noun is plural and already ends with an 's', simply add an apostrophe after the 's'.

Example

the howls belonging to the wolves » the wolves' howls

However, not all plural nouns end in 's'. Some plural nouns are irregular, e.g. children, people, mice. In cases such as these, add an apostrophe and an 's' to the end of the word.

Examples

the books belonging to the children » the children's books.

the votes belonging to the people » the people's votes.



Apostrophes with Singular Nouns

To show possession by a singular noun, an apostrophe is usually placed after the final letter of a word followed by an s.

Example

The pencil belonging to Sarah was on the table.

Sarah's pencil was on the table.

Nouns Ending in 's'

With singular nouns that end in -s, you should add an apostrophe plus 's' when you would naturally pronounce an extra 's' if you said the word aloud.

Example

Dickens's novels always make great reads.

Thomas's brother was born in 2009.

However, regional accents can have a bearing on word pronunciation in certain circumstances.

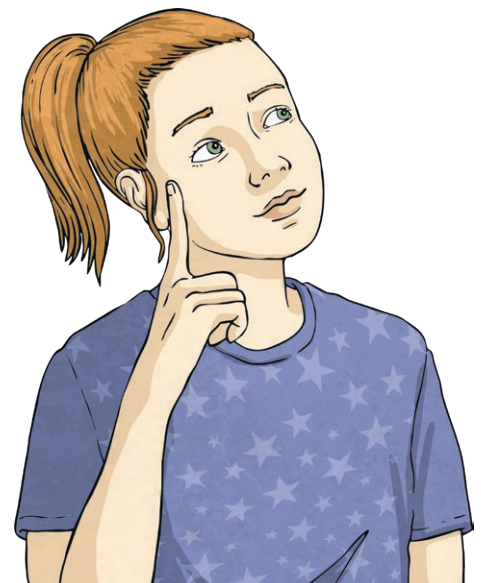


Aaliyah's Apostrophe Homework

Aaliyah has been set some homework. She must choose which sentence has correctly used an apostrophe to show **possession by a singular noun**. However, she isn't sure which one it is! Please help her by reading each sentence carefully and then place a tick by the correct sentence.

Tick one

1. ☐ The ogres shoe's were rotten and smelly.
☐ The ogres' shoes were rotten and smelly.
☐ The ogre's shoes were rotten and smelly.
2. ☐ Snow White's clothes were covered in mud.
☐ Snow Whites' clothes were covered in mud.
☐ Snow Whites clothe's were covered in mud.
3. ☐ The girls pencil's fell out onto the floor.
☐ The girl's pencils fell out onto the floor.
☐ The girls' pencils fell out onto the floor.
4. ☐ The Queen's jewels were kept in the tower.
☐ The Queens jewels' were kept in the tower.
☐ The Queens' jewels were kept in the tower.
5. ☐ The flowers' petals slowly fell to the ground.
☐ The flower's petals slowly fell to the ground.
☐ The flowers petal's slowly fell to the ground.
6. ☐ The cowboys gun's were attached to his belt.
☐ The cowboys' guns were attached to his belt.
☐ The cowboy's guns were attached to his belt.
7. ☐ The squirrel's nuts were stored in the tree.
☐ The squirrels' nuts were stored in the tree.
☐ The squirrels nut's were stored in the tree.



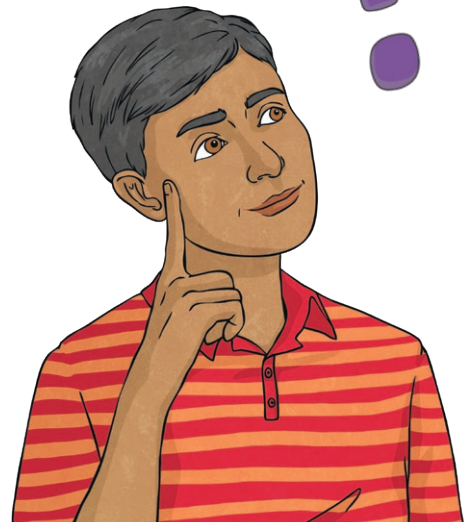
Andrew's Apostrophes

Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

Andrew is totally confused by apostrophes. In the sentences below, apostrophes have been used to show possession. However, one sentence shows possession by a **singular noun** and the other sentence shows possession by a **plural noun**. Please help Andrew to identify which sentence uses an apostrophe to show possession by a **plural noun** by placing a tick next to it.

Tick one

1. ☐ The dogs' biscuits were kept in on the top shelf in the cupboard.
☐ The dog's biscuits were kept in on the top shelf in the cupboard.
2. ☐ The astronaut's suits were hung up in the International Space Station.
☐ The astronauts' suits were hung up in the International Space Station.
3. ☐ The witch's cats roamed through the garden.
☐ The witches' cats roamed through the garden.
4. ☐ The rockets' wings were being painted a new colour.
☐ The rocket's wings were being painted a new colour.
5. ☐ The cow's diet is mostly grass.
☐ The cows' diet is mostly grass.
6. ☐ The fairy's wings glittered and sparkled in the sunlight.
☐ The fairies' wings glittered and sparkled in the sunlight.
7. ☐ The eagles' wings flapped swiftly in the wind.
☐ The eagle's wings flapped swiftly in the wind.
8. ☐ The pupils' pencils were brand new.
☐ The pupil's pencils were brand new.



Missing Apostrophe

Singular Possessive Nouns

Oh dear! Patricia Punctuation has written some sentences but she has forgotten to add an apostrophe to show **possession by these singular nouns**. Copy out the sentence on the line provided and include the missing apostrophe.

1

Kims mum bought some sausages from the shop.

2

The butterflys wings flapped as it flew from flower to flower.

3

The dogs tail wagged excitedly as he walked.

4

The dancers costume was very colourful and bright.

5

The witchs new broomstick was made from solid oak.

6

The clowns gloves were large and spotty.

7

At the party, the birthday girls presents were placed on the table.

8

The reindeers bells gently rang as he walked through the snow.

Plural Nouns Challenge

Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

Look at each list of nouns below. Circle the correct **plural possessive noun** in each list.

1 | teachers | teacher's | teachers' | teachers's

2 | dragon's | dragons's | dragons | dragons'

3 | pilots' | pilots's | pilots | pilot's

4 | painters's | painters' | painter's | painters

5 | elf's | elves' | elves | elves's

6 | cars | cars's | cars' | car's

7 | chickens's | chicken's | chickens | chickens'

8 | pizzas | pizza's | pizzas' | pizzas's

9 | trees | trees' | tree's | trees's

10 | clocks' | clocks's | clock's | clocks

Now, using some of the examples given above, write two sentences which include a plural possessive noun.

1. _____

2. _____

Possessive Plural Nouns: Complete the Sentence

Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

Complete the sentences below by changing the singular noun into a **plural possessive noun**. Be careful to place the possessive apostrophe correctly.

1 The _____ roars filled the air as they all flew through the sky.
(Noun: dragon)

2 During the flight, the _____ suitcases were stored in the hold.
(Noun: pilot)

3 In autumn, the _____ leaves change colour as the weather becomes colder.
(Noun: tree)

4 In the kitchen, the chef prepared the _____ meals.
(Noun: guest)

5 The _____ football kits were all hung up in the changing room.
(Noun: boy)

6 Everybody ate lots of cake at the _____ party. (Noun: child)

7 The _____ hair was washed and brushed ready for the pageant.
(Noun: horse)

8 At night, the friendly _____ wails echoed through the haunted house. (Noun: ghost)

9 The _____ wool was used to make lots of different items of clothing.
(Noun: sheep)

10 The _____ necks craned upwards to reach the juicy leaves.
(Noun: giraffe)

Showing Possession

Change the sentences below so that they each contain an apostrophe to show possession
by a **singular noun**.

For example:

The rays belonging to the sun shone on the ground.

The sun's rays shone on the ground.

1

The reindeer belonging to Santa flew through the air.

2

The harp belonging to the giant sang beautifully.

3

The cauldron belonging to the witch boiled and bubbled.

4

The tail belonging to the dog wagged.

5

The wheel belonging to the car had a puncture.

6

The toys belonging to the child were scattered on the floor.

7

The dress belonging to Molly hung in the wardrobe.

8

The phone belonging to Cameron began to ring.

Singular or Plural?

Key

Look at the table below. Each box contains an apostrophe to show possession. You must decide if the possession in each case is by a singular or plural noun. Colour in each box according to the key.



= singular possessive apostrophe



= plural possessive apostrophe

The Queen's tarts

monsters' fur

dog's paws

wolves' howls

fairies' wings

pigs' trotters

sun's rays

passengers'
suitcases

castle's turrets

babies'
milk bottles

flowers' petals

witch's
broomsticks

trees' leaves

the kings' jewels

girl's slippers

teacher's
notebook

children's work

horse's hooves

footballers' shoes

cat's claws

clock's hands

lion's mane

pizzas' toppings

elephants' tusks

The Sphinx's Puzzles

The Sphinx has got some questions for you. You must answer them in full sentences, including a **singular possessive noun**. Remember that, to show possession, you normally add an apostrophe and an 's' to the end of the noun. However, don't forget that there are some exceptions to the rule.

Example: Q: Whose hair was as black as coal?

A: Snow White's hair was as black as coal.



1

Whose bandages were very old and dusty?

2

Whose teeth are extremely sharp?

3

Whose magic wand sparkled?

4

Whose crown sparkled with precious jewels?

5

Whose nose was made using a carrot?

6

Whose roar was very loud?

7

Whose eyes sparkled in the moonlight?

8

Whose homework was very difficult?

Aaliyah's Apostrophe Homework Answers

1. The ogres shoe's were rotten and smelly.
The ogres' shoes were rotten and smelly.
The ogre's shoes were rotten and smelly.
2. **Snow White's clothes were covered in mud.**
Snow Whites' clothes were covered in mud.
Snow Whites clothe's were covered in mud.
3. The girls pencil's fell out onto the floor.
The girl's pencils fell out onto the floor.
The girls' pencils fell out onto the floor.
4. **The Queen's jewels were kept in the tower.**
The Queens jewels' were kept in the tower.
The Queens' jewels were kept in the tower.
5. The flowers' petals slowly fell to the ground.
The flower's petals slowly fell to the ground.
The flowers petal's slowly fell to the ground.
6. The cowboys gun's were attached to his belt.
The cowboys' guns were attached to his belt.
The cowboy's guns were attached to his belt.
7. **The squirrel's nuts were stored in the tree.**
The squirrels' nuts were stored in the tree.
The squirrels nut's were stored in the tree.

Andrew's Apostrophes **Answers**

1. **The dogs' biscuits were kept in on the top shelf in the cupboard.**
The dog's biscuits were kept in on the top shelf in the cupboard.
2. The astronaut's suits were hung up in the International Space Station.
The astronauts' suits were hung up in the International Space Station.
3. The witch's cats roamed through the garden.
The witches' cats roamed through the garden.
4. **The rockets' wings were being painted a new colour.**
The rocket's wings were being painted a new colour.
5. The cow's diet is mostly grass.
The cows' diet is mostly grass.
6. The fairy's wings glittered and sparkled in the sunlight.
The fairies' wings glittered and sparkled in the sunlight.
7. **The eagles' wings flapped swiftly in the wind.**
The eagle's wings flapped swiftly in the wind.
8. **The pupils' pencils were brand new.**
The pupil's pencils were brand new.

Missing Apostrophe Answers

1. Kims mum bought some sausages from the shop.
Kim's mum bought some sausages from the shop.
2. The butterflys wings flapped as it flew from flower to flower.
The butterfly's wings flapped as it flew from flower to flower.
3. The dogs tail wagged excitedly as he walked.
The dog's tail wagged excitedly as he walked.
4. The dancers costume was very colourful and bright.
The dancer's costume was very colourful and bright.
5. The witchs new broomstick was made from solid oak.
The witch's new broomstick was made from solid oak.
6. The clowns gloves were large and spotty.
The clown's gloves were large and spotty.
7. At the party, the birthday girls presents were placed on the table.
At the party, the birthday girl's presents were placed on the table.
8. The reindeers bells gently rang as he walked through the snow.
The reindeer's bells gently rang as he walked through the snow.

Plural Nouns Challenge **Answers**

1.	teachers	teacher's	teachers'	teachers's
2.	dragon's	dragons's	dragons	dragons'
3.	pilots'	pilots's	pilots	pilot's
4.	painters's	painters'	painter's	painters
5.	elf's	elves'	elves	elves's
6.	cars	cars's	cars'	car's
7.	chickens's	chicken's	chickens	chickens'
8.	pizzas	pizza's	pizzas'	pizzas's
9.	trees	trees'	tree's	trees's
10.	clocks'	clocks's	clock's	clocks

Possessive Plural Nouns **Answers**

1. The **dragons'** roars filled the air as they all flew through the sky.
(Noun: dragon)
2. During the flight, the **pilots'** suitcases were stored in the hold.
(Noun: pilot)
3. In Autumn, the **trees'** leaves change colour as the weather becomes colder.
(Noun: tree)
4. In the kitchen, the chef prepared the **guests'** meals.
(Noun: guest)
5. The **boys'** football kits were all hung up in the changing room.
(Noun: boy)
6. Everybody ate lots of cake at the **children's** party.
(Noun: child)
7. The **horses'** hair was washed and brushed ready for the pageant.
(Noun: horse)
8. At night, the friendly **ghosts'** wails echoed through the haunted house.
(Noun: ghost)
9. The **sheep's** wool was used to make lots of different items of clothing.
(Noun: sheep)
10. The **giraffes'** necks craned upwards to reach the juicy leaves.
(Noun: giraffe)

Singular or Plural? **Answers**

The Queen's tarts

monsters' fur

dog's paws

wolves' howls

fairies' wings

pigs' trotters

sun's rays

passengers'
suitcases

castle's turrets

babies'
milk bottles

flowers' petals

witch's
broomsticks

trees' leaves

the kings' jewels

girl's slippers

teacher's
notebook

children's work

horse's hooves

footballers' shoes

cat's claws

clock's hands

lion's mane

pizzas' toppings

elephants' tusks

The Sphinx's Puzzles **Answers**

Please accept any relevant answer to the question given, provided that it makes sense within the context and correctly uses an apostrophe to show possession. Example answers are as follows:

1. Whose bandages were very old and dusty?
The mummy's bandages were old and dusty.
2. Whose teeth are extremely sharp?
The shark's teeth were extremely sharp.
3. Whose magic wand sparkled?
The fairy godmother's magic wand sparkled.
4. Whose crown sparkled with precious jewels?
The King's crown sparkled with precious jewels.
5. Whose nose was made using a carrot?
The snowman's nose was made using a carrot.
6. Whose roar was very loud?
The lion's roar was very loud.
7. Whose eyes sparkled in the moonlight?
The cat's eyes sparkled in the moonlight.
8. Whose homework was very difficult?
Jack's homework was very difficult.