

LESSON 6

Possessive Nouns

Possessive noun

A word that shows ownership or a relationship between two things

Apostrophe

A punctuation mark that indicates a noun is possessive

A **possessive noun** shows ownership or a relationship between two things. It always has an **apostrophe** ('). An apostrophe is a punctuation mark. It is often used to indicate that a noun is possessive.

EXAMPLE

Where are **Angela's** goggles?

(The goggles belong to Angela.)

Angela's swim team won its meet.

(Angela is part of the team.)

The **team's** score is 2.

(The team has a score of 2.)

Rules for Forming Possessives

Rule 1 Make a singular noun possessive by adding an apostrophe and -s ('s).

EXAMPLE

Angela's team

Nathan's guitar

the school's motto

the computer's keyboard

Rule 2 When a singular noun ends in s, add an apostrophe and -s ('s).

EXAMPLE

the boss's day off

Gail Russ's book

Rule 3 Make a plural noun possessive by adding only an apostrophe (').

EXAMPLE

the trains' routes

the trumpets' sounds

Rule 4 If a plural noun does not end in *s*, add an apostrophe and *-s* (*'s*).

EXAMPLE

the children's toys

the men's locker room

Activity A Read the sentences. Write the words in bold on your paper. Add an apostrophe if the word shows ownership. If the word is plural, write *plural* next to it.

- 1) All of the teams met at the **citys** new stadium.
- 2) The **swimmers** were there for the meet.
- 3) Everyone on **Angela's** team was ready for the competition.
- 4) The **coachs** last words were to try their best.
- 5) The winner of the meet will go to the state **finals**.

Activity B On a sheet of paper, make the four columns shown here. Write the headings at the top of the columns. Write the correct forms of the nouns in the columns. Use the information in Lessons 4 and 5 to help you with plurals.

Singular	Singular Possessive	Plural	Plural Possessive
1) team			
2) wolf			
3) man			
4) Jones			
5) city			

Use an apostrophe in phrases such as *one dollar's worth* or *a week's vacation*. If the word is plural and ends in *s*, add only an apostrophe.

EXAMPLE

Singular

Plural

one cent's worth

ten cents' worth

a month's vacation

two months' vacation

Activity C Read each pair of sentences. Choose the correct sentence in each pair and write it on your paper.

- 1) a) Nathan likes to put in his two cents' worth.
b) Nathan likes to put in his two cent's worth.
- 2) a) Please give me two dollar's worth of stamps.
b) Please give me two dollars' worth of stamps.
- 3) a) You will only have a minute's wait.
b) You will only have a minutes' wait.
- 4) a) The week's activities were posted on the bulletin board.
b) The weeks activities were posted on the bulletin board.
- 5) a) The snow caused an hours delay.
b) The snow caused an hour's delay.

Recognizing Plurals and Possessives

Look carefully at the two words in red type below. How are they different? What does each word mean?

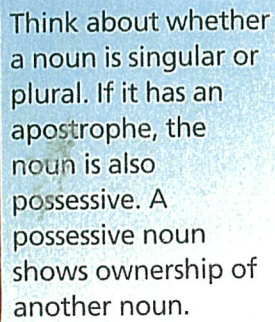
EXAMPLE

Plural

There were six teams at the meet.

Possessive

The team's prize was a trophy.



Think about whether a noun is singular or plural. If it has an apostrophe, the noun is also possessive. A possessive noun shows ownership of another noun.

Activity D Read Angela's report. Find the plural nouns. Write them on your paper in one column. Then find the possessive nouns. Write them in a second column. The first two sentences are done for you.

The Swim Meet

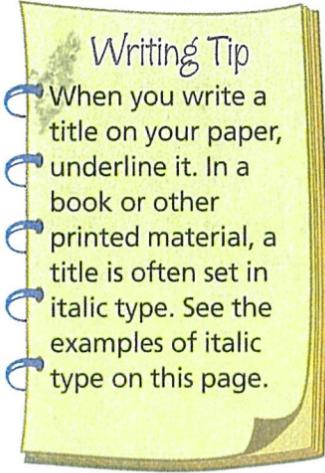
by Angela Choy

The school's most recent swim meet was last Friday. The swimmers' nerves were on edge. Everyone had high hopes about doing well. Teams from several schools met in the school's stadium. Our coaches were very supportive. They told us to do our best. There were several events. Our team's best event is the relay. We have good individual swimmers also. Our goal was to win the meet and go to the state finals. The referee's whistle signaled the start of the first race. The swimmers dove into the water. I could write many stories about the exciting match-ups. The short answer is that Wilson's team won. We are going to the state finals!

Plurals	Possessives
nerves	school's
	swimmers'

Read each pair of sentences. Pick the correct one and write it on your paper.

- 1) a) Where are Armando's running shoes?
b) Where are Armandos running shoes?
- 2) a) All of the team's were ready for the swim meet.
b) All of the teams were ready for the swim meet.
- 3) a) My neighbor's dog ran away.
b) My neighbors dog ran away.
- 4) a) Learning to proofread improved the students' grades.
b) Learning to proofread improved the students grades.
- 5) a) Mrs. Langston looked everywhere for her car keys'.
b) Mrs. Langston looked everywhere for her car keys.
- 6) a) Everyone had high hopes at the swim meet.
b) Everyone had high hope's at the swim meet.
- 7) a) A good writer makes sure the words are spelled right.
b) A good writer makes sure the words' are spelled right.
- 8) a) There was cheering in Wilson Highs locker room.
b) There was cheering in Wilson High's locker room.
- 9) a) Emily's job is at a music store.
b) Emilys job is at a music store.
- 10) a) Her hours are from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.
b) Her hour's are from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M.

Writing Tip

When you write a title on your paper, underline it. In a book or other printed material, a title is often set in italic type. See the examples of italic type on this page.

Books, songs, movies, and stories are some of the things that can have a title. A title is a proper noun. Capitalize the first word and all of the important words in a title.

EXAMPLE

Song	<i>"America, the Beautiful"</i>
Movie	<i>Star Wars</i>
Book	<i>The Red Pony</i>
Play	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Story	<i>"To Build a Fire"</i>

Underline the title of a movie, book, magazine, opera, or play.

Put quotation marks around the title of a song, poem, or short story.

Activity A Write each of these titles on your paper. Capitalize the first word and all of the important words. Underline or use quotation marks for the titles.

- 1) the sound of music
- 2) the wizard of oz
- 3) the perfect storm
- 4) there's no business like show business
- 5) beauty and the beast

A person's name is a proper noun. People also can have titles. Capitalize a person's title.

EXAMPLE

Rev. Robert Stetler	Dr. Jacquelyn Montoya
Mr. Hak Lee	Professor Eve Rice

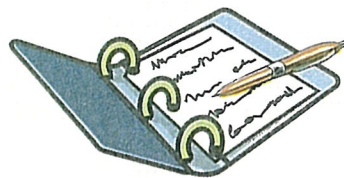
On your paper, write sentences using these nouns and titles. Be sure to capitalize proper nouns and underline the titles.

- 1) mrs. langston
- 2) the pigman by paul zindel
- 3) new york giants
- 4) roots by alex haley
- 5) the lion king
- 6) independence hall
- 7) mr. thomas

Write these sentences on your paper. Capitalize any proper nouns. Underline or use quotation marks for the titles.

- 8) Emily is doing her book report on the invisible man, a novel by ralph ellison.
- 9) My favorite play by william shakespeare is hamlet.
- 10) One of the most popular short stories is the lady, or the tiger? by frank stockton.
- 11) Home alone was a hit movie in 1990.
- 12) Our dentist's name is dr. richard harp.
- 13) Dr. albert einstein taught at princeton university.
- 14) The star-spangled banner is hard to sing.
- 15) Well-known weekly magazines are time and newsweek.

Writing Project



Use Nouns to Create an Advertisement

Part A Find the nouns in the public service announcement below. Identify each noun as abstract or concrete, common or proper, and singular or plural. Write these four headings on your paper: *Nouns, Abstract/Concrete, Common/Proper, Singular/Plural*. List each noun under the correct heading.

Nouns	Abstract/Concrete	Common/Proper	Singular/Plural
--------------	--------------------------	----------------------	------------------------

Part B Choose an interesting advertisement in a newspaper or magazine. Find the nouns in the advertisement. Identify each noun as abstract or concrete, common or proper, and singular or plural. Write these four headings on your paper: *Nouns, Abstract/Concrete, Common/Proper, Singular/Plural*. List each noun under the correct heading.

Part C In a group or individually, think up a name for a new singing group or band. Design an advertisement to promote this new group. Find the nouns in your advertisement. Identify each one as abstract or concrete, common or proper, and singular or plural. Write these four headings on your paper: *Nouns, Abstract/Concrete, Common/Proper, Singular/Plural*. List each noun under the correct heading.

**ENCOURAGE
YOUR KID'S HABIT.**



KIDS NEED SOMETHING BETTER TO DO THAN **DRUGS**.
LIKE SPORTS, DANCE, OR MUSIC. BECAUSE GOOD
THINGS CAN BE HABIT-FORMING, TOO. SO GET THEM
INTO A GOOD HABIT. TODAY. OR THEY MAY GET INTO
A VERY BAD ONE.

Office of National Drug Control Policy
Partnership for a Drug-Free America®

For more information, visit our websites at
www.projectknow.com, www.drugfreeamerica.org or call 1-800-788-2800.

WORD BANK

abbreviation
abstract noun
apostrophe
collective noun
common noun
compound noun
concrete noun
hyphen
noun.
plural noun
possessive noun
proper noun
singular noun

Part A On a sheet of paper, write the correct word or words from the Word Bank to complete each sentence.

- 1) A _____ is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.
- 2) A _____ is the name of a particular person, place, thing, or idea and is always capitalized.
- 3) An _____ is the short form of a word.
- 4) A _____ names only one person, place, thing, or idea.
- 5) An _____ names something you cannot see or touch but can think or talk about.
- 6) The name of more than one person, place, thing, or idea is a _____.
- 7) A _____ is made from two words.
- 8) A _____ is the name of a general type of person, place, thing, or idea.
- 9) An _____ indicates a noun is possessive.
- 10) A _____ names a group of people, places, or things.
- 11) A short dash between parts of a word is called a _____.
- 12) A _____ names something you can see or touch.
- 13) A _____ indicates ownership or a relationship between two things.

Part B On a sheet of paper, write the nouns in these sentences.

- 14) Emily wants to ride her bike.
- 15) It is a lovely day to take a trip.
- 16) Emily decides to take a friend along.
- 17) Angela says she will meet Emily at her house.

Part C Write these sentences on a sheet of paper. Capitalize the proper nouns.

- 18) On saturday armando visits aunt edna.
- 19) She just moved to town from houston, texas.
- 20) She used to teach at the university of florida.
- 21) She was a professor of american history.

Part D On a sheet of paper, make the four columns shown here. Write the headings at the top of the columns. Write the correct forms of the nouns in the columns.

Singular	Singular Possessive	Plural	Plural Possessive
22) lady			
23) wolf			
24) deer			
25) child			

Test-Taking Tip

If you know you will have to define certain terms on a test, write the term on one side of a card. Write its definition on the other side. Use the cards to test yourself or work with a partner.