Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Apostrophes
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Introductory Activity

Independent Focused Activity

Review Activity

Consolidation Activity

Assessment
Aim

• I can use possessive apostrophes with plural nouns.

Success Criteria

• I can describe what an apostrophe is.
• I can explain what a plural is.
• I can identify a possessive apostrophe for a plural in a sentence.
• I can use a possessive apostrophe with plurals in my own sentences.
Introductory Activity
Showing Possession

Apostrophes can be used to show that something belongs to someone or something. This is called **possession**.

When we are talking about one thing we call this **singular**.

For example, a man or a bike.

When we need to say that something belongs to something singular, we put an **apostrophe and then an ‘s’ at the end** of the name that it belongs to.
Showing Possession

Look at the examples below:

**Common Noun:**
- The man’s bike.
- The bike’s handlebars were bent in the crash.

**Proper Noun:**
- India’s national flag has three horizontal stripes.
Showing Possession

When we are talking about **more than one thing** we call this **plural**.

For example, a pack of **wolves** or a group of **countries**.

If the noun is plural and ends in -s, add only an apostrophe.

For example, the **wolves’** prey was a deer.
Showing Possession

If the noun is plural and does not end in -s, add –’s.

The **children’s** play is on Friday evening.

The **geese’s** flight in formation was amazing.
Showing Possession

However, plural nouns can be spelt using a variety of different letter endings.

If the noun ends with an ‘s’, we still show an apostrophe of possession but without adding another ‘s’ after it.

The ponies’ diet is mostly grass.

The boys’ fancy dress costumes were so good!

Photos courtesy of David Masters and epSos.de (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution
Showing Possession

More examples are shown below:

The loaves’ icing is shiny.

Two of the volcanoes’ summits are ahead.

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Showing Possession

More examples are shown below:

The **rabbits’** hutch is messy.

The **houses’** chimneys are all made from brick.

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Showing Possession

Look at the following sentences and decide which one is correct.

Example A: Through the trees, the bats’ noses glistened.

Example B: Through the trees, the bat’s noses glistened.

Example C: Through the trees, the bats nose’s glistened.

Watch the following short film to check your understanding:
Independent Focused Activity
The Dragons’ Possessions

Work on your own to complete The Dragons’ Possessions Activity Sheet.

In the far land, three dragons, Iggy, Bitzy and Mipzy, lived there. They lived together in a cave at the foot of a prehistoric mountain, hiding from danger and protecting their secret.

1. Fill in the plural apostrophes in the sentences below.
   a) The dragons’ cave was terrifying.
   b) The dragons’ secret was that they were hiding some mysterious jewels.
   c) The thousands of cave bats noses twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   d) Beaks (not) beaks were heard approaching.
   e) Iggy, Bitzy and Mipzy knees trembled.
   f) The intruders shadow were getting closer.

2. Write two more sentences about the three dragons, showing apostrophes for plural possession.
   a) 
   b) 

Remember:
Singular possession often looks like this — the girl’s cave.
Plural possession often looks like this — the girls’ caves.

1. Cut out the boxes below and sort the sentences out into examples of singular possession or plural possession.

   - The dragons’ cave was terrifying.
   - The dragons’ secret was that they were hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The thousands of cave bats noses twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - Beaks (not) beaks were heard approaching.
   - Iggy, Bitzy and Mipzy knees trembled.
   - The intruders shadow were getting closer.

   - The girl’s cave was terrifying.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The thousands of girl bats noses twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - Beaks (not) beaks were heard approaching.
   - Iggy, Bitzy and Mipzy knees trembled.
   - The intruders shadow were getting closer.

   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.
   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.
   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.
   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.
   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.
   - A person’s footsteps were heard approaching.

   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.
   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.
   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.
   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.
   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.
   - The witches’ screams ran out through the valley.

   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The bat’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.

   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.
   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.
   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.
   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.
   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.
   - The elliptical pit above the cave was magical.

   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.
   - The girl’s nose twitched, sniffing out intruders.

   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.
   - The girl’s secret was that she was hiding some mysterious jewels.

   - All the girl’s names trembled.
   - All the girl’s names trembled.
   - All the girl’s names trembled.
   - All the girl’s names trembled.
   - All the girl’s names trembled.
   - All the girl’s names trembled.
Assessment
Apostrophes

Use all the information you have learnt and practiced about prepositions. Work on your own to complete the Mini Test.

**Apostrophes Mini Test**

1. **Tick** the sentence that uses an apostrophe correctly.
   - The city’s lights were twinkling brightly.
   - The cities’ lights were twinkling brightly.
   - The cities lights’ were twinkling brightly.
   - The city’s light’s were twinkling brightly.

2. **Write** a sentence using an apostrophe for plural possession.

3. **Tick** the option that shows how the apostrophe is used in the sentence.
   - The boy’s trousers were ripped.
     - As an apostrophe for plural possession.
     - As an apostrophe for singular possession.
     - As an apostrophe for contraction.
     - As an apostrophe for omission.

**Mini Test**

4. **Circle** all of the sentences that use an apostrophe for possession.
   - That’s the correct end for the picture.
   - The children’s work is excellent.
   - She shouldn’t need any help.
   - Her skirt’s pretty.
   - The dog’s tail was damaged.

5. **Draw a Star** from the singular possession word to the plural equivalent.
   - child’s
   - puppy’s
   - baby’s
   - dragon’s
   - church’s
   - brothers’
   - parents’

**End of Test**
Aim

- I can use possessive apostrophes with plural nouns.

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