

Year 3 and 4 Punctuation: Apostrophes for Possession with Plural Nouns

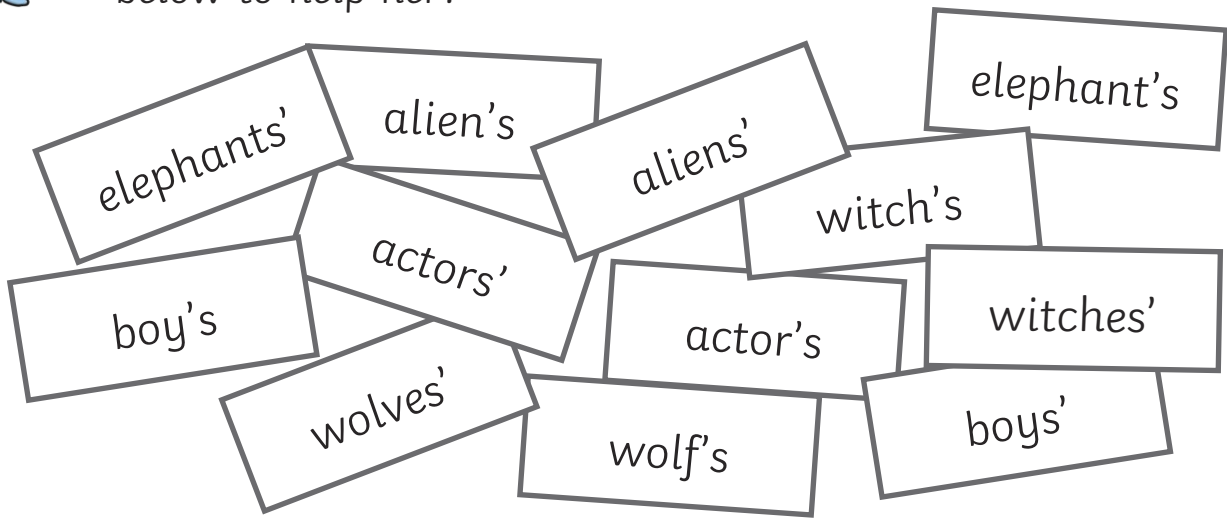
Learning From Home Activity Booklet

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Singular or Plural Sort



Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has dropped her word cards on the floor and now they have become mixed up! The words all contained examples of the possessive apostrophe. However, some are singular nouns with apostrophes and some are plural nouns with apostrophes. Can you sort them into two groups in the table below to help her?



Singular	Plural

Challenge

Well done for completing the activity! Now write a sentence of your own using one of the plural nouns with a possessive apostrophe.

Singular or Plural Sentences

In the sentences below, an apostrophe has been used to show possession. However, in one option it shows an apostrophe being used with a **singular noun** and in the other it shows the apostrophe being used with a **plural noun**. Tick the sentence that shows the apostrophe being used with a plural noun.

1. The babies' bottles were all lined up on the side ready for feeding time.
 The baby's bottles were all lined up on the side ready for feeding time.

2. The wolf's howls echoed through the misty forest.
 The wolves' howls echoed through the misty forest.

3. The boy's new T-shirts were on the bench.
 The boys' new T-shirts were on the bench.

4. The teachers' work has to be finished after assembly.
 The teacher's work had to be finished after assembly.

5. The horse's shoes needed replacing.
 The horses' shoes needed replacing.



Singular or Plural Sentences

6. The girl's dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
 The girls' dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
7. The foxes' home is underground.
 The fox's home is underground.
8. The dragons' strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.
 The dragon's strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.

Parent Note

When completing this exercise with your child, discuss the difference in meaning between the two sentences. If your child can give a clear explanation, it shows that they have mastered the difference between using apostrophes with singular and plural nouns.



Complete the Sentence

Complete the sentences by changing the singular noun into a plural noun and by adding an apostrophe to show possession.

1. The _____ manes waved in the gentle breeze.
(Singular noun: lion)
2. The _____ colony was hidden high in the branches of a tree.
(Singular noun: ant)
3. In the forest, the _____ howls could be heard for miles around.
(Singular noun: wolf)
4. Mum scowled as she looked at the _____ dirty T-shirts.
(Singular noun: boy)
5. In the evening, the _____ loud barking disturbed all the neighbours.
(Singular noun: dog)
6. Everybody ate lots of food at the _____ party.
(Singular noun: child)
7. Bang went the gun at the start of the _____ 100m race final.
(Singular noun: man)
8. The _____ fur was washed and brushed ready for the parade.
(Singular noun: pony)

Be the Teacher!

Professor Punctuation is marking homework but he needs help to complete all the work. Please be the teacher and mark this piece of work below. The children had to use apostrophes to show possession with plural nouns. Cross out the wrong apostrophes and add the correct apostrophe in the right place.



In the forest, the wolve's howls' echoed as the tree's branches' swayed in the wind. Underground, in the foxe's home, they huddled together to get warm. In the trees', the squirrel's feet pattered as they scrambled up and down the branches' looking for food. In a clearing, the childrens' hands' shivered with cold. On the childrens' heads, were warm, woollen hats' and scarves' around their necks. The scarve's tassels fluttered like snowflakes'. On their feet, all the shoe's laces were frozen in the cold weather. From close by, the adult's shouts' floated on the wind. The boy's faces' began to smile as it was time to go home and get warm.

A Parent's Guide to Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

In years 3 and 4, children will be taught to use apostrophes to show possession with plural nouns. This builds on the work they did in KS1 when they learnt to use apostrophes to show possession with singular nouns. If your child isn't secure on using apostrophes for possession with singular nouns, it would be best to revise this first. The following booklet can be used for revision:

Year 2 Punctuation: Apostrophes for Possession Activity Booklet

Apostrophes with Plural Nouns

If the noun is a regular plural and ends with an 's', we just add an apostrophe after the 's'. For example:

The howls belonging to the wolves.

Should be written: **The wolves' howls.**

However, not all plural nouns end in 's' - some are irregular like children and people. In these cases, we add an apostrophe and then an 's' ('s) to the end of the word. For example:

The books belonging to the children.

Should be written: **The children's books.**

Year 3 and 4 Punctuation: Apostrophes for Possession with Plural Nouns

Learning From Home Activity Booklet Answers

Singular or Plural Sort

Singular	Plural
boy's	boys'
witch's	witches'
wolf's	wolves'
actor's	actors'
elephant's	elephants'
alien's	aliens'

Challenge

Accept any answer where a possessive apostrophe is used with a plural noun, e.g. The aliens' spaceships zoomed through the night sky.

Singular or Plural Sentences

1. The babies' bottles were all lined up on the side ready for feeding time.
2. The wolves' howls echoed through the misty forest.
3. The boys' new T-shirts were on the bench.
4. The teachers' work has to be finished after assembly.
5. The horses' shoes needed replacing.
6. The girls' dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
7. The foxes' home is underground.
8. The dragons' strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.

Complete the Sentence

1. The lions' manes waved in the gentle breeze.
2. The ants' colony was hidden high in the branches of a tree.
3. In the forest, the wolves' howls could be heard for miles around.
4. Mum scowled as she looked at the boys' dirty T-shirts.
5. In the evening, the dogs' loud barking disturbed all the neighbours.
6. Everybody ate lots of food at the children's party.
7. Bang went the gun at the start of the men's 100m race final.
8. The ponies' fur was washed and brushed ready for the parade.

Be the Teacher!

In the forest, the wolves' howls echoed as the trees' branches swayed in the wind. Underground, in the foxes' home, they huddled together to get warm. In the trees, the squirrels' feet pattered as they scrambled up and down the branches looking for food. In a clearing, the children's hands shivered with cold. On the children's heads, were warm, woollen hats and scarves around their necks. The scarves' tassels fluttered like snowflakes. On their feet, all the shoes' laces were frozen in the cold weather. From close by, the adults' shouts floated on the wind. The boys' faces began to smile as it was time to go home and get warm.

Correctly placed apostrophes have been circled. All other apostrophes should have been crossed out by the children.