

# Apostrophes for Possession Activity Booklet



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Look out for the monkey's coconuts and count how many there are throughout the booklet!





Apostrophes are used to show possession – who something belongs to. For instance, in the following sentence, the pencil belongs to Sheba:

**The pencil belonging to Sheba was on the table.**

However, in English, we generally use the apostrophe to show possession:

**Sheba's pencil was on the table.**

## Singular Possessive

The general rule for showing possession is to add an apostrophe to the end of the word and then an s ('s). Look at the following examples:

**The lion's paws were big.**

**The cat's whiskers twitched.**

**The dog's tail wagged.**

However, if a singular noun already ends in s, an apostrophe is placed after the s but we do not add a further s. For example:

**The octopus' tentacles were long.**

**The rhinoceros' horn was sharp.**

**The walrus' teeth were sharp.**

## Plural Possessive

Many people experience much confusion with plural nouns. A plural noun means more than one, i.e. boys, cats, monkeys etc. When a plural noun ends with s we simply put the apostrophe after the s. For example:

**the howls belonging to the wolves**

becomes

**the wolves' howls**



## Apostrophes for Possession Explained for Parents and Carers

This can cause some confusion when we look at the following examples:

**The boy's socks were on the bench.**

**The boys' socks were on the bench.**

In the first example, there is one boy and his socks are on the bench. However, in the second example, the position of the apostrophe lets the reader know that there is more than one boy and all their socks are on the bench.

But, when a plural noun doesn't end in s (like children), we add an apostrophe and s ('s) to the end of the word. For example:

**the books belonging to the children**

is written

**the children's books**

### **Its or It's**

Its and it's are often confused when children are writing at home so this would be good to clarify with your children to ensure they use these words correctly in their independent writing. It's is a contraction and is short for it is, whereas its is used to show possession. A good tip is to encourage your child to say the sentence out loud to check if it should be it is (it's) or its. For example:

**The dog was very excited – its tail didn't stop wagging! ✓**

**The dog was very excited – it's tail didn't stop wagging! X**

In the examples above, the first sentence is correct as it is showing possession so we use its. In the second example, we can't say 'it is tail didn't stop wagging' so we know we can't use the contraction it's.

# Jungle Apostrophes



Oh dear! Max has been writing some sentences, but he isn't sure where to put the apostrophe to show possession with a **singular noun**. He has written each sentence out twice. Help him by ticking the sentence which uses an apostrophe correctly in each pair.

1. The tiger's roar echoed through the trees.

The tigers roar echoed through the tree's.

2. The snake's coils were hanging from the tree.

The snakes coil's were hanging from the tree.

3. In a clearing, the birds tweet's echoed.

In a clearing, the bird's tweets echoed.

4. As summer arrived, the bear's fur began to shed in large patches across its body.

As summer arrived, the bears fur began to shed in large patche's across its body.

5. The elephant's tusks parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.

The elephants tusk's parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.





# Missing Apostrophes

Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has printed a worksheet for his class, but the printer is broken... it hasn't printed the apostrophes! Please write out each sentence again with the missing apostrophe.



1. Staceys mum always bakes a cake at the weekend

---

2. In the sea, the sharks fin sliced through the water.

---

3. Charlies football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!

---

4. Spains weather can get very hot, especially in summer.

---

5. The lions roar echoed through the savannah.

---

6. The cars engine suddenly stopped working.

---

7. In the evening, Marcus dog barked because he was hungry.

---

8. The firefighters job was to put out the fire.

---

# Brain Break 1: Mindfulness Colouring





# Apostrophe Answers

We use apostrophes to show ownership or possession. Below, you will find a list of questions. Write an answer to each question using a **singular noun** with an apostrophe. Remember that to show possession you normally add an apostrophe and the letter s ('s) to the end of the noun. However, be careful with nouns ending in an s as we only need to add an apostrophe after the final s. For example:

**Whose cake had the best flavour?**

**James' cake had the best flavour.**

1. Whose fur is very silky?

---

2. Whose neck is very long?

---

3. Whose spaceship is faster than lightspeed?

---

4. Whose car has flashing blue lights?

---

---

5. Whose coat was lost?

---

---

6. Whose favourite stories are all about dragons?

---

---





# The Possessive Apostrophe



Change each of the sentences below so that they each contain an apostrophe to show possession. For example:

**The tail belonging to the dog wagged.**

**The dog's tail wagged.**

1. The bike belonging to the man.

---

2. The doll belonging to the girl.

---

3. The dog belonging to the old woman.

---

4. The wings belonging to the unicorn flapped.

---

5. The horn belonging to the car beeped loudly.

---

6. The claws belonging to the tiger were sharp.

---

7. The light of the moon pierced through the clouds.

---

8. The fins belonging to the fish sparkled in the water.

---



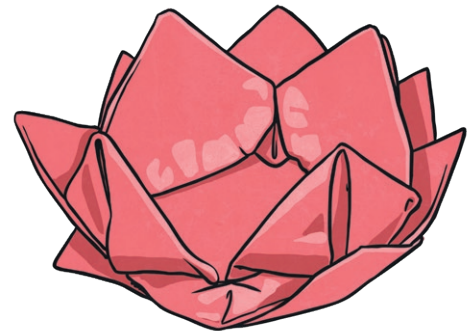
## Brain Break 2: Origami Lotus Flower

### You will need:

A piece of paper  
(25cm x 25cm)

### Tip:

The bigger the piece of paper, the bigger the lotus flower will be, making it easier to work with.



### Instructions

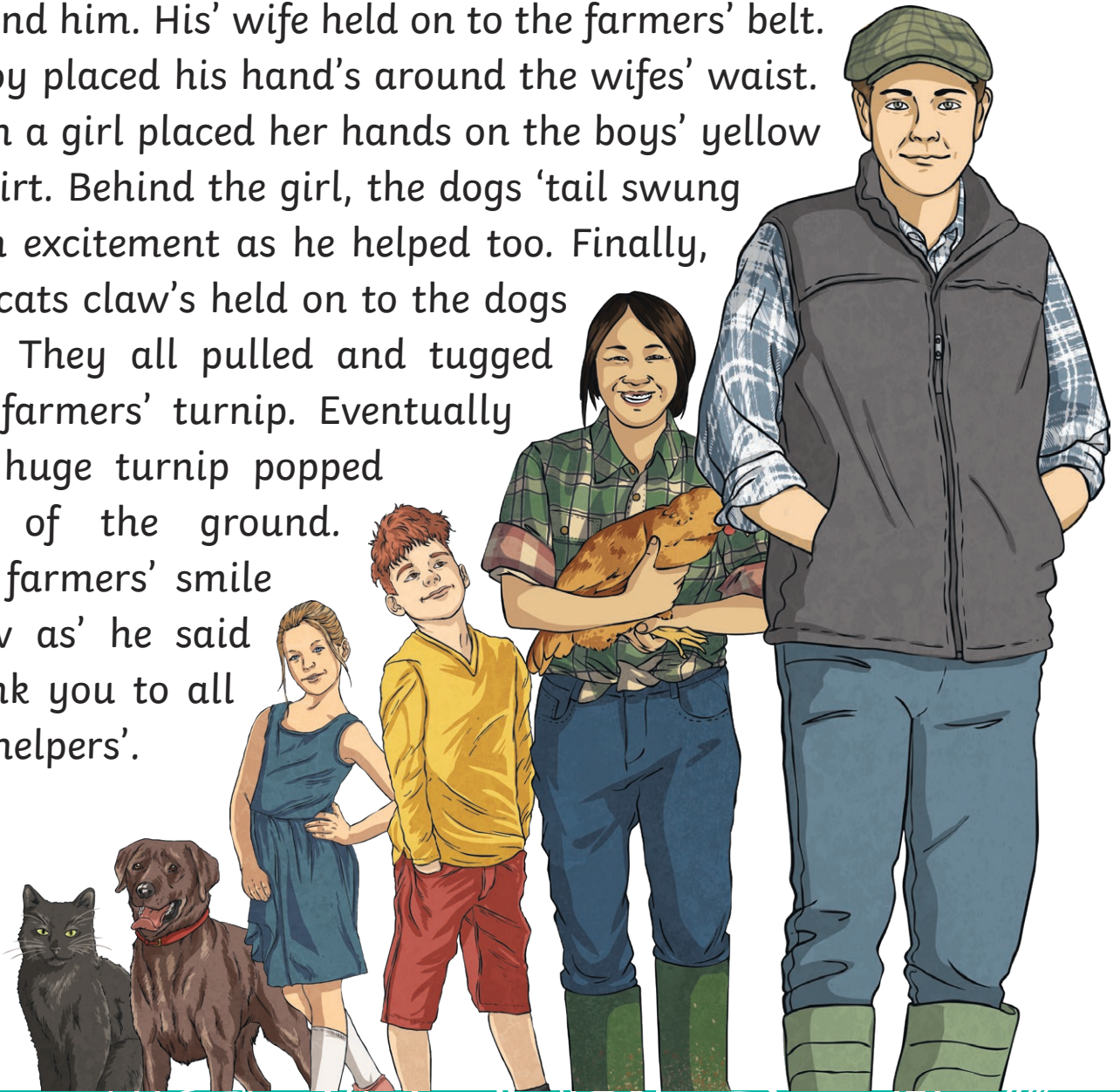
1. First, fold the piece of paper in half by lifting the top right hand corner and matching it up with the bottom left hand corner. Flatten down to make a crease.
2. Next, unfold and repeat this instruction in the opposite direction (top left hand corner to match up with the bottom right hand corner). When you unfold your paper, you should see a fold in the shape of a cross.
3. After that, fold each corner of your square into the centre point of the paper (where the two fold lines intersect) and flatten down. Once finished, you should now have a smaller square.
4. Next, fold each corner into the centre again to make an even smaller square.
5. Repeat each corner fold again for a third time.
6. Now turn over the square and fold each square corner into the centre as you have done before.
7. Then, take each pointed corner of the square and fold it inwards (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the corner). You should then see an irregular octagon.
8. Next, turn your lotus flower over and pull up your first petals. Do this by gently taking each of the corner folds you made, pulling them up and pushing them back over themselves the opposite way, underneath the flower. Keep repeating this until you have done this to every flap on each layer of this side of the flower.
9. Finally, turn your flower over and there you have it! Why not see if your flower will float in water? You could also make an even bigger lotus flower by changing the original paper size.

# Be the Teacher!



Professor Punctuation has lots of homework to mark but he doesn't have enough time to complete it all. Please be the teacher by helping him to mark the work. You must cross out the incorrect apostrophes and insert apostrophes for possession. You could use a coloured pen like a teacher when you are marking the work.


The farmers' turnip had grown to a huge 'size! He needed help so' he called for all his friend's. The farmers' friend's all made a line behind him. His' wife held on to the farmers' belt. A boy placed his hand's around the wives' waist. Then a girl placed her hands on the boys' yellow T-shirt. Behind the girl, the dogs 'tail swung with excitement as he helped too. Finally, the cats claw's held on to the dogs tail. They all pulled and tugged the farmers' turnip. Eventually the huge turnip popped out of the ground. The farmers' smile grew as' he said thank you to all his helpers'.



# Singular or Plural Sort

Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has dropped his 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 him?

Singular	Plural



aliens'

wolves'

wolf's

actor's

elephants'

alien's

boys'

witches'

witch's

actors'

elephant's

boy's

## Challenge

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 which shows the apostrophe being used with a plural noun.

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

The boys' new T-shirts were on the bench.
- The teachers' work has to be finished after assembly.

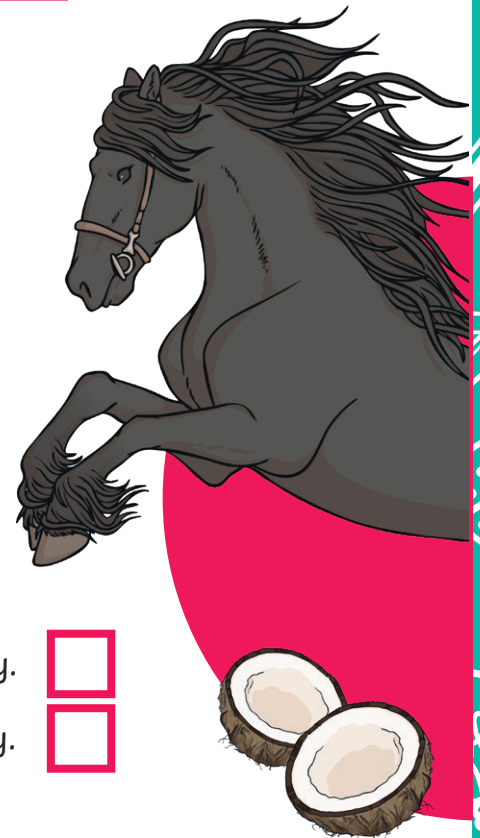
The teacher's work has to be finished after assembly.
- The horse's diet is mostly grass.

The horses' diet is mostly grass.
- The girl's dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.

The girls' dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
- The foxes' home is underground.

The fox's home is underground.
- The dragons' strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.

The dragon's strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.





# Brain Break 3: Jungle Wordsearch

m y j u n g l e w x e e  
l j a o m h g e t s g s  
g c v r e t a p i r a l  
g o r i l l a j g u w o  
g j n b r y a l e b v t  
i x p a n d a a r f d h  
e v a l a s f h a o h n  
a c r o c o d i l e n t  
j q p t l i z a r d t x  
c k q a n t e a t e r z  
w k g h j k x f o p b d  
j a g u a r h a e c e s



jungle  
tiger  
gorilla  
panda

sloth  
crocodile  
anteater  
tapir

jaguar  
lizard

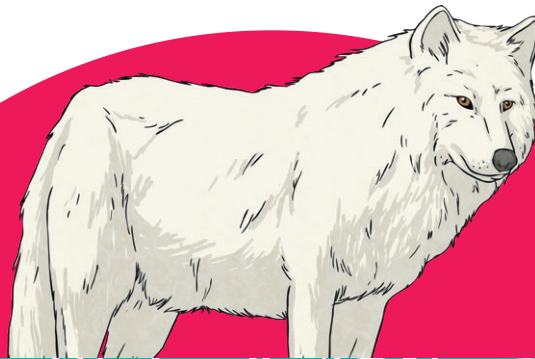


# Complete the Sentence



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

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ manes waved in the gentle breeze.  
**(Noun: lion)**
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ colony was hidden high in the branches of a tree.  
**(Noun: ant)**
3. In the forest, the \_\_\_\_\_ howled at the iridescent moon.  
**(Noun: wolf)**
4. Mum scowled as she looked at the \_\_\_\_\_ dirty T-shirts.  
**(Noun: boy)**
5. In the evening, the \_\_\_\_\_ loud barking disturbed all the neighbours.  
**(Noun: dog)**
6. Everybody ate lots of food at the \_\_\_\_\_ party.  
**(Noun: child)**
7. BANG! went the gun at the start of the \_\_\_\_\_ 100m race final.  
**(Noun: man)**
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ fur was washed and brushed ready for the parade.  
**(Noun: pony)**





## Be the Teacher! 2

Professor Punctuation is marking his class' homework again but he needs help to complete all the work. Please be the teacher and mark the 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' head, were warm, woollen hats' and scarve's around their necks. The scarve's tassels fluttered like snowflakes'. On their feet, all the shoe's laces froze in the cold weather. From close by, the adult's shouts' floated on the wind. Smile's appeared on the boy's face's as it was time to go home and get warm.



# Answers



## Page 5

1. The tiger's roar echoed through the trees.
2. The snake's coils were hanging from the tree.
3. In a clearing, the bird's tweets echoed.
4. As summer arrived, the bear's fur began to shed in large patches across its body.
5. The elephant's tusks parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.

## Page 6

1. Stacey's mum always bakes a cake at the weekend.
2. In the sea, the shark's fins sliced through the water.
3. Charlie's football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!
4. Spain's weather can get very hot, especially in summer.
5. The lion's roar echoed through the savannah.
6. The car's engine suddenly stopped working.
7. In the evening, Marcus' dog barked because he was hungry.
8. The firefighter's job was to put out the fire.

## Page 8

Please accept any sentence that makes sense whilst including an apostrophe for possession.

## Page 9

1. The man's bike.
2. The girl's doll.
3. The old woman's dog.
4. The unicorn's wings flapped.
5. The car's horn beeped loudly.

6. The tiger's claws were sharp.
7. The moon's light pierced through the clouds.
8. The fish's fins sparkled in the water.

## Page 11

The farmer's turnip had grown to a huge size! He needed help so he called for all his friends. The farmer's friends all made a line behind him. His wife held on to the farmer's belt. A boy placed his hands around the wife's waist. Then a girl placed her hands on the boy's yellow T-shirt. Behind the girl, the dog's tail swung with excitement as he helped too. Finally, the cat's claws held on to the dog's tail. They all pulled and tugged the farmer's turnip. Eventually the huge turnip popped out of the ground. The farmer's smile grew as he said thank you to all his helpers.

## Page 12

### Singular

boy's  
witch's  
wolf's  
actor's  
elephant's  
alien's

### Plural

boys'  
witches'  
wolves'  
actors'  
elephants'  
aliens'

## Page 13

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' diet is mostly grass.



- The girls' dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
- The foxes' home is underground.
- The dragons' strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.

## Page 14

m y j u n g l e w x e e  
 l j a o m h g e t s g s  
 g c v r e t a p i r a l  
 g o r i l l a j g u w o  
 g j n b r y a l e b v t  
 i x p a n d a a r f d h  
 e v a l a s f h a o h n  
 a c r o c o d i l e n t  
 j q p t l i z a r d t x  
 c k q a n t e a t e r z  
 w k g h j k x f o p b d  
 j a g u a r h a e c e s

## Page 15

- lions'
- ants'
- wolves'
- boys'
- dogs'
- children's
- men's
- ponies'

## Page 16

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 head were warm, woollen hats and scarves around their necks. The scarves' tassels fluttered like snowflakes. On their feet, all the shoes' laces froze in the cold weather. From close by, the adults' shouts floated on the wind. Smile's appeared on the boys' faces as it was time to go home and get warm.

There were 10 coconuts all together!  
Did you find them all?

