

Apostrophes - Possession

Add an apostrophe and (') to nouns to show possession. Add only an apostrophe (') to plural nouns that already end in s to show possession.

Examples: boy- boy's men- men's girls - girls'

The possessive pronouns his, hers, its, ours, yours and theirs never use an apostrophe to show possession.

On each line in the following sentences, write the possessive form of the word enclosed in the parentheses.

1. (boy) John bought the _____ bicycle.
2. (girls) The _____ places in the choir are filled.
3. (children) Whitman Photographs, Inc., specializes in _____ pictures.
4. (Rosa) Will you send me _____ address?
5. (our) Ellen asked if the barking dogs were _____?
6. (Smiths) (their) This is the _____ cottage; the boat is _____, too.
7. (child) Is that _____ bicycle broken?
8. (Austen) Three of _____ novels are being studied in literature class.
9. (day) (anybody) A hard _____ work is _____ tonic.
10. (it) The house, with _____ broken windows, looked deserted.
11. (her) That essay of _____ is interesting.

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In compound words, names of companies (business firms), and two words showing a joint possession, only the last words uses the apostrophe and s ('s).

Examples: son-in-law's house
Ritter and Smith's Lumber Yard
Judy and Mary's mother

Place apostrophes wherever needed in the following sentences.

1. Jim borrowed his father-in-laws car.
2. Helen and Janes piano needs tuning.
3. Have you heard about Jones and Smiths clearance sale?
4. Her sister-in-laws new hat arrived.
5. Stan and Amys apartment is on Main Street.
6. The girl and boys duet went very well.

In the sentences below, cross out the incorrect apostrophes and unnecessary letters.

1. Miss Jones will take charge of either the girls' or the boys' study hall.
2. I've invited my mother-in-law's friend's.
3. On Tuesday's we always go shopping.
4. Mr. Smith's son-in-law's patient's aren't coming.
5. Be sure to eat at Mike's and Joe's restaurant when you arrive in Middletown.
6. That hair of her's always needs combing.
7. Dad's brother's-in-law's hats are too big for his' head.
8. The store's in this town close on Sunday's.