Possessive Apostrophes

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **possessive noun** shows who owns something. For one owner, add **'s**: *the dog's bone*. For more than one owner ending in s, add just an **apostrophe**: *the dogs' bones*. For plurals that do not end in s, add **'s**: *the children's toys*. A plain plural that does not own anything gets **no apostrophe**: *I have two cats.*

Ask: Does the word own something in the sentence? No? Then no apostrophe.



1. Plural or possessive?

Is the word in brackets just a plural, or does it show ownership?

1	I have three cats. (cats)	plural	possessive
2	The cat's bowl is empty. (cat's)	plural	possessive
3	The bakers made bread. (bakers)	plural	possessive
4	We read Sam's story. (Sam's)	plural	possessive
5	The players' uniforms are red. (players')	plural	possessive
6	The apples fell from the tree. (apples)	plural	possessive

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2. One owner or more?

Read carefully. Circle the right form.

1. My _____ name is Rex. (one dog) — dogs' / dog's / dogs
2. The _____ team won. (many students) — students' / student's / students
3. We saw three _____ at the farm. — pig's / pigs' / pigs
4. My _____ bikes are blue. (two sisters) — sisters / sisters' / sister's
5. The _____ wing was hurt. (one bird) — bird's / birds' / birds
6. Five _____ were singing. — frogs' / frog's / frogs

Answer Key

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1. Plural or possessive?

1	I have three cats. (cats)	**plural**	possessive
2	The cat's bowl is empty. (cat's)	plural	**possessive**
3	The bakers made bread. (bakers)	**plural**	possessive
4	We read Sam's story. (Sam's)	plural	**possessive**
5	The players' uniforms are red. (players')	plural	**possessive**
6	The apples fell from the tree. (apples)	**plural**	possessive

2. One owner or more?

1	My **dog's** name is Rex. (one dog)	dogs'	**dog's**	dogs
2	The **students'** team won. (many students)	**students'**	student's	students
3	We saw three **pigs** at the farm.	pig's	pigs'	**pigs**
4	My **sisters'** bikes are blue. (two sisters)	sisters	**sisters'**	sister's
5	The **bird's** wing was hurt. (one bird)	**bird's**	birds'	birds
6	Five **frogs** were singing.	frogs'	frog's	**frogs**