

Lesson 3

Possessive Nouns

The possessive form of a noun shows ownership or relationship. Use an apostrophe and -s to show possession. For example, *wren's nest* (ownership); *Mom's friend* (relationship).

You may use possessive nouns in place of longer phrases.

Everybody met at the front gate of the museum.
 Everybody met at the museum's front gate.

The following chart shows the usual ways to form the plurals of possessive nouns.

Noun	Rule	Possessive
Singular:	bird	Add an apostrophe and -s bird's family
Plural ending in -s:	eggs	Add an apostrophe eggs' colors
Plurals not ending in -s:	men	Add an apostrophe and -s men's hats

A. Identifying Possessive Nouns

Underline each possessive noun. On the blank, write **S** if that noun is singular or **P** if it is plural.

- Mrs. Cass's class took several field trips this year. _____
- Their science unit's subject was animal homes. _____
- Which trees' branches seem to attract more birds? _____
- Karl's idea was to take pictures of some bird eggs. _____
- Three students' cameras already had film in them. _____

B. Using Possessive Nouns

Complete each sentence with the possessive form of the word shown in parentheses.

- Two _____ backpacks were left in the picnic area. (children)
- My _____ notebook got wet in the rain. (friend)
- In one tree we saw evidence of a _____ home. (woodpecker)
- _____ tape recorder came in handy. (Lisa)
- We all kept quiet when she recorded some baby _____ chirps. (robins)

C. Using Possessives in Phrases

Rewrite the sentences, changing the boldfaced phrases to possessives.

- The **reports of students** will be due next Friday morning.

- David decided to compare **the nests of two birds**.

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Lesson 3

Possessive Nouns

More Practice

A. Identifying Possessive Nouns

Underline each possessive noun in these sentences. On the blank, write **S** for singular and **P** for plural. There are two possessives in each sentence.

- Pigeons' roosts were on our building's window ledge. _____
- In a year's time, I saw many pigeons' eggs in our flowerpots. _____
- It was the owner's decision to remove my mother's pots. _____
- Because of Mom's love of birds, we borrowed the Smiths' bird feeder. _____
- We can't see the pigeons' roosts anymore, but we hope each bird's hunger is satisfied. _____

B. Correcting Errors in Possessive Nouns

In each sentence, find and underline the possessive that has been formed incorrectly. Write the correctly spelled possessive on the line.

1. Citie's skyscrapers are home to many birds. _____
2. In Baltimore, a peregrine falcons's nest was found on a roof. _____
3. Many scientist's studies stated that those birds were an endangered species. _____
4. Through many peoples' efforts, the falcon was able to breed. _____
5. In Argentina, several Quaker parakeet's nests are in one tree. _____
6. Up to 12 birds's nests may be in the same tree! _____
7. Some burrowing owls's burrows are guarded just like castles. _____
8. An owl at the front of the burrow imitates a sentrys' stance. _____

C. Using Possessives in Sentences

Form a possessive for each noun given. Then use it in a sentence.

1. scientists _____

2. citizen _____

CHAPTER 2

Possessive Nouns

Application

A. Correcting Errors in Possessive Nouns

Check the boldfaced possessive nouns in these sentences. If the possessive is formed incorrectly, write the correct form on the blank. If it is correct, write **C**.

1. **Sams'** sketches are displayed near the school office. _____
2. It is a good way to compare several **birds'** habitats. _____
3. Most cliff **swallows's** nests are made of mud pellets. _____
4. You can observe their nests on a cliff or under a **buildings'** eaves. _____
5. Some **student's** reports are about the diets of various birds. _____
6. I read that a bald **eagles'** favorite food is salmon. _____
7. Victor taped the sound made by a **hummingbird's** wings. _____
8. Some **birds's** migration journeys can cover thousands of miles. _____
9. The **map's** key can help you figure the distance in miles. _____
10. On **Parents'** Night, we will present our bird projects. _____

B. Using Possessive Nouns in Sentences

Change each set of words in parentheses into a possessive phrase. Write a sentence using that phrase.

EXAMPLE (wings of the bird) *bird's wing*
The bird's wings had been clipped.

1. (interest of the children) _____

2. (visiting hours at the hospital) _____

3. (hobbies of my friend) _____

4. (speech of the museum guide) _____

Fragments and Run-Ons

Teaching

Sentence fragments and run-on sentences are writing errors that can make your writing difficult to understand.

A **sentence fragment** is part of a sentence that is written as if it were a complete sentence. A sentence fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or both.

Fragments Plants in the desert. (missing a predicate)
Must adapt to life. (missing a subject)
Without much water. (missing both)

Revision Plants in the desert must adapt to life without much water.

A **run-on sentence** is two or more sentences written as if they were a single sentence. When you combine two sentences with a conjunction, use a comma before the conjunction.

Run-On Not much rain falls in the desert some animals still live there.

Revision Not much rain falls in the desert, but some animals still live there.

Identifying Sentences, Sentence Fragments, and Run-Ons

On the short line to the right of each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence.

1. A region that receives little water. _____
2. Months may pass between rainfalls when storms do occur, they may be violent. _____
3. The dry desert soil and hardly any water. _____
4. Piles of sand called *dunes* cover parts of the desert. _____
5. The desert is very hot during the day, the temperature in the desert may drop below freezing at night. _____
6. Animals and plants live in the desert they have developed ways to survive in the hot, dry climate. _____
7. The lives of many desert creatures of the desert. _____
8. Hide in burrows and beneath rocks. _____
9. Desert mammals become active at night. _____
10. Desert reptiles appear at sunrise. _____
11. Desert plants also face the problem of collecting water, the cactus is an expert at holding on to water. _____
12. Need to absorb as much water as possible. _____
13. Not many people except those in the desert. _____

Fragments and Run-Ons

More Practice

A. Identifying and Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

On the line after each word group below, write **CS**, **F**, or **RO** to identify the word group as a complete sentence, a fragment, or a run-on sentence. Then rewrite each fragment or run-on as one or more correct sentences. Add sentence parts as needed.

1. The poster on the wall.

2. The photographer took a picture of the beautiful countryside.

3. There are shells all over the beach let's collect some.

4. Laughed at the comedian's act.

5. I love that story I've read it three times.

B. Correcting Fragments and Run-Ons

Rewrite this paragraph, correcting each fragment and run-on. You may add words to any fragment to make it a sentence, or combine it with another sentence. To correct a run-on, you may either separate the sentences or join them correctly.

The largest desert in the world. The Sahara in northern Africa. The Sahara covers an area about the size of the United States it extends into ten African countries. Its landscape includes mountains, plateaus, and huge areas of sand. Its population. Less than two million people. The Sahara has a hot, dry climate, some areas have an average rainfall of less than one inch per year.

CHAPTER 1

X

Semicolons and Colons

Teaching

Semicolons in Compound Sentences Use a semicolon to join the parts of a compound sentence if you don't use a coordinating conjunction.

Fay cared for four cats; one of them actually belonged to a neighbor.

Use a semicolon between the parts of a compound sentence if the clauses are long and complicated, or if they contain one or more commas.

Fay had three cats of her own; but one of them, a gray one with black on his paws and ears, was her favorite.

Semicolons with Items in a Series When there are commas within parts of a series, use a semicolon to separate the parts.

In addition, she had a gerbil, a gift from her sister; a hamster, which she bought as a companion to the gerbil; and two white mice.

Colons Use a colon in the following ways: to introduce a list of items; after the formal greetings in a business letter, and between hours and minutes in expressions of time. When using the colon to introduce a list, use it only after nouns or pronouns.

Dear Mr. Jameson:

The lecture, which will begin at 11:30 A.M., is to cover three kinds of pets: felines, canines, and reptiles.

Using Semicolons and Colons

Add semicolons and colons where they are needed in the following sentences.

1. I don't mind cats, dogs, or fish but she wants to have lizards, snakes, and spiders.
2. We went to Paris we saw the Eiffel Tower.
3. Joan doesn't study she's unlikely to do well in math.
4. However, Joan is a good athlete she trains hard.
5. Before you set off for school, make sure you have all your supplies pencils, compass, protractor, notebooks.
6. Ask Mitzi to show you the tarantula she lets it walk up her arm.
7. The dogs get fed at 700 A.M. and 600 P.M.
8. Harvey walks Salt and Pepper, the dogs of our neighbor to the east and he feeds the fish in the aquarium of our neighbor to the west.
9. Your cats are companionable enough I still prefer a dog.
10. We went to two bookstores and a department store book section but the book I was looking for, about caring for and training dogs, wasn't anywhere.
11. My father is from Atlanta, Georgia my mother is from Portland, Maine and I was born in Chicago.
12. Memorize the following your locker location, its number, and the lock combination.

Lesson 5

Semicolons and Colons

More Practice

A. Using the Semicolon and the Colon

Add semicolons and colons where they are needed in the numbered sentences.

(1) Keeping a pet is a big responsibility it's a commitment for the life of the animal. (2) Caring for the pet demands more than just putting out food and water those are just the basics. (3) You also have to think about such things as the following vaccinations, the babysitting of your pet when you're away, and veterinary care.

(4) These items can cost a good deal of money in addition, you should also consider the emotional cost, to you and the rest of the family, of a crisis involving a pet. (5) A cat or dog may get hit by a car, especially in the city, where there are more vehicles or your pet may be injured in a fight with another animal, either in the country or the city. If you remember these drawbacks and still want a pet, there are hundreds of animal shelters and pet stores to serve you.

B. Using the Semicolon and the Colon in Writing

On the line at the right, write the word(s) from the sentence that should be followed by a semicolon or colon. Write the correct punctuation mark following each word. If the sentence is punctuated correctly, write **Correct**.

EXAMPLE This store sells toys for pets catnip for cats, rubber bones for dogs, and tiny bells for birds. *pets:*

1. Before buying Izzy, we bought a book on training dogs the book has already been extremely helpful _____
2. The book covers all the basics nutrition, medical care, and what to do in case of an accident or injury. _____
3. It came with a gift certificate for a really useful item that is, a dozen cans of dog food and a list of other free pet items. _____
4. We didn't have reserved seats for the dog show consequently, we couldn't get in. _____
5. According to the newspaper report of the show, we could have seen all these dogs poodles, Pomeranians, bulldogs, Yorkshire terriers, and salukis. _____