

**LESSON 8****Possessive Nouns**

Nouns that show ownership or possession of things or qualities are called **possessive nouns**. A possessive noun names who or what has something. Possessive nouns can be singular or plural. An apostrophe is used to form the possessive of nouns. To form the possessive of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an *s* to the end of the word.

**EXAMPLES****singular possessive nouns**

Linda's picture was in Sunday's newspaper.  
(Linda + 's = Linda's; Sunday + 's = Sunday's)

The possessive of a plural noun is formed two different ways. If the plural noun does not end in *s*, you add an apostrophe and an *s* to the end of the word. If the plural noun ends with an *s*, add only an apostrophe.

**EXAMPLES****plural possessive nouns**

Golfers were annoyed by the geese's presence on their course.  
(geese + 's = geese's)  
The neighbors' children yelled loudly. (neighbors + ' = neighbors')

**EXERCISE 1****Identifying Possessive Nouns**

Indicate whether the underlined nouns in the following sentences are singular or plural.

1. Yoshiko Uchida's short story is about a Japanese-American family during the Japanese internment.  
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2. Japanese Americans' rights were stripped from them, and they were sent to live in unpleasant camps.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Ruri's family packed everything they could fit into suitcases and left their home in Berkeley, California.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor caused the U.S. government to send anyone of Japanese descent to internment camps.  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Laurie Madison, Ruri's best friend, stopped by the house to say goodbye and give her a bracelet.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When the family arrived at the church, the soldiers' bayonets scared Ruri.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The family's possessions were thrown on a truck, and the family boarded a bus.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The barracks' atmosphere was dusty, dingy, and smelly.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Laurie's bracelet had fallen off on the trip to the internment camp.  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Mama's wise advice is that they do not need material things to remember the people they left behind.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 2

### Understanding How to Form Possessive Nouns

Write the correct singular or plural possessive form of each underlined noun.

1. several writers manuscripts \_\_\_\_\_
2. a books theme \_\_\_\_\_
3. either librarians assistance \_\_\_\_\_
4. Massachusetts state bird \_\_\_\_\_
5. Thomas sweater \_\_\_\_\_
6. many women purses \_\_\_\_\_
7. those tourists cameras \_\_\_\_\_
8. all drivers seat belts \_\_\_\_\_
9. one fox den \_\_\_\_\_
10. two country flags \_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 3

### Using Possessive Nouns

Turn each of the following nouns into its possessive form, and then use it in a sentence.

EXAMPLES

year (*year's*; *They kept a year's worth of bottled water in the basement.*)

1. pen

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2. box

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3. city

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4. tomatoes

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5. governors

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6. boys

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7. monkeys

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8. cars

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9. Jess

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10. Tacoma

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