

Possessive Detective Sort

Sort plural possessives by their apostrophe rule.

4.L.GC.1.37 "Mechanics: Use apostrophes to form plural possessive nouns. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

REGULAR PLURALS

A regular plural ends in s. Put the apostrophe after the s to show that the plural noun owns something.

the painters' ladders

SPECIAL PLURALS

A special plural does not end in s. Add an apostrophe and s to show that the plural noun owns something.

the geese's pond

1 SORT

8 items

For each phrase, circle REGULAR or SPECIAL, then in Part 2, choose two phrases and explain which plural noun and apostrophe rule helped you sort each one.

1. the robots' batteries

REGULAR

SPECIAL

2. the musicians' instruments

REGULAR

SPECIAL

3. the mice's cheese

REGULAR

SPECIAL

4. the coaches' whistles

REGULAR

SPECIAL

5. the women's uniforms

REGULAR

SPECIAL

6. the people's ideas

REGULAR

SPECIAL

7. the neighbors' gardens

REGULAR

SPECIAL

8. the men's jackets

REGULAR

SPECIAL

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new plural possessive phrase for REGULAR and one new plural possessive phrase for SPECIAL.

REGULAR _____

SPECIAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses two plural possessive nouns, one REGULAR and one SPECIAL.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	the robots' batteries	REGULAR	Robots is a plural ending in s, so the apostrophe comes after s.
2	the musicians' instruments	REGULAR	Musicians is a plural ending in s, so the apostrophe comes after s.
3	the mice's cheese	SPECIAL	Mice is a plural that does not end in s, so it takes apostrophe s.
4	the coaches' whistles	REGULAR	Coaches is a plural ending in s, so the apostrophe comes after s.
5	the women's uniforms	SPECIAL	Women is a plural that does not end in s, so it takes apostrophe s.
6	the people's ideas	SPECIAL	People is a plural that does not end in s, so it takes apostrophe s.
7	the neighbors' gardens	REGULAR	Neighbors is a plural ending in s, so the apostrophe comes after s.
8	the men's jackets	SPECIAL	Men is a plural that does not end in s, so it takes apostrophe s.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **REGULAR:** the campers' tents
- **SPECIAL:** the oxen's wagon

Challenge: The sailors' ship carried the sheep's wool.

For Part 2, students should identify the plural noun and explain whether it ends in s. Accept different correct examples in Part 3 and the challenge.