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.

ANSWER KEY # Possessive Detective Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.37

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.

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