Apostrophe Evidence

Sort clues from the newsroom.

11.5.W.5 "Students will write using correct apostrophe mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSSESSIVE

A possessive apostrophe shows that something belongs or is connected to someone or something. Place it before s for a singular noun or an irregular plural, and after s for a regular plural.

curator's catalog

CONTRACTION

In a contraction, an apostrophe takes the place of missing letters when words are joined. Expand the contraction to check its meaning.

they've departed

1 SORT

8 items

Circle POSSESSIVE or SHORTENED for each item, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	editors' objections	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
2.	we'll publish	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
3.	it's unverified	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
4.	committee's ruling	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
5.	children's testimony	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
6.	witness's account	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
7.	she's revising	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED
8.	jurors' questions	POSSESSIVE	SHORTENED

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 phrase with a possessive apostrophe and one new phrase with a contraction.

POSSESSIVE _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a plural possessive apostrophe and a contraction, then identify what each apostrophe does.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Evidence

GRADE 11 · 11.5.W.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	editors' objections	**POSSESSIVE**	The objections belong to multiple editors; the apostrophe follows the plural s.
2	we'll publish	**SHORTENED**	We'll means we will.
3	it's unverified	**SHORTENED**	It's means it is.
4	committee's ruling	**POSSESSIVE**	The ruling is connected to one committee.
5	children's testimony	**POSSESSIVE**	Children is an irregular plural, so the possessive apostrophe comes before s.
6	witness's account	**POSSESSIVE**	The account belongs to one witness.
7	she's revising	**SHORTENED**	She's means she is.
8	jurors' questions	**POSSESSIVE**	The questions belong to multiple jurors; the apostrophe follows the plural 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)

- **POSSESSIVE**: photographers' cameras
- **SHORTENED**: I can't attend

Challenge: The researchers' findings aren't public yet. Researchers' shows plural possession; aren't replaces the missing o in are not.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies a possessive relationship or expands a contraction. For the challenge, accept either a regular or irregular plural possessive if its apostrophe is placed correctly.