Apostrophe Audit

Sort sentences by how they use apostrophes.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT APOSTROPHE

An apostrophe can show possession or replace missing letters in a contraction. Its placement must match the meaning.

The pilot's jacket was wet.

APOSTROPHE ERROR

An apostrophe is missing, unnecessary, or in the wrong place.

Four comet's crossed the sky.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or INCORRECT for each numbered sentence, then choose two sentences and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	The editor's margin notes clarified the ending.	CORRECT INCORRECT
2.	The witnesses' accounts conflicted.	CORRECT INCORRECT
3.	The childrens' coats hung by the door.	CORRECT INCORRECT
4.	It's time to submit the application.	CORRECT INCORRECT
5.	The engine lost it's power on the climb.	CORRECT INCORRECT
6.	Three applicant's missed the deadline.	CORRECT INCORRECT
7.	The men's team has already arrived.	CORRECT INCORRECT
8.	The two students's essays reached the final round.	CORRECT INCORRECT

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 sentence with a correct apostrophe and one new sentence with an apostrophe error. Underline the word that shows your choice in each sentence.

CORRECT _____

INCORRECT _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both its and it's correctly. Then explain what each word means in your sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Audit

GRADE 12 · 12.5.W.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The editor's margin notes clarified the ending.	**CORRECT**	Editor's correctly shows that the notes belong to one editor.
2	The witnesses' accounts conflicted.	**CORRECT**	Witnesses' correctly shows possession by multiple witnesses.
3	The childrens' coats hung by the door.	**INCORRECT**	Children is an irregular plural, so its possessive is children's.
4	It's time to submit the application.	**CORRECT**	It's correctly means it is.
5	The engine lost it's power on the climb.	**INCORRECT**	The possessive its does not take an apostrophe.
6	Three applicant's missed the deadline.	**INCORRECT**	Applicants is a plural, not a possessive, so it takes no apostrophe.
7	The men's team has already arrived.	**CORRECT**	Men's correctly shows possession by an irregular plural.
8	The two students's essays reached the final round.	**INCORRECT**	The plural possessive students' places the apostrophe after the 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)

- **CORRECT**: The artist's sketches filled the folder.
- **INCORRECT**: Six scientist's recorded the results.

Challenge: It's clear that the museum has updated its entrance. It's means it is, and its shows that the entrance belongs to the museum.

For Part 2, accept explanations that connect each apostrophe to possession, a contraction, or an error. Corrections for items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are children's, its, applicants, and students', respectively.