Apostrophe Clues

Sort what each apostrophe does.

6.5.W.6 "Students will write using correct apostrophe mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SHOWS OWNERSHIP

An apostrophe can show that something belongs to someone or something. Find the owner and what belongs to it.

Mira's telescope cracked.

SHORTENS WORDS

An apostrophe can take the place of missing letters when two words join. Say the two full words to check.

You'll arrive soon.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle OWNERSHIP or SHORTENED for each bold word; for PROVE IT, choose two numbered items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

1.	The **baker's** apron is blue.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
2.	We **haven't** seen the comet.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
3.	**She'll** carry the lantern.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
4.	The **twins'** bikes are outside.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
5.	My **friend's** sketch won a prize.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
6.	The **dogs'** bowls are empty.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
7.	**I'd** rather read tonight.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
8.	The **fox's** den is hidden.	OWNERSHIP SHORTENED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two numbered items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new sentence with an apostrophe showing ownership and one new sentence with an apostrophe shortening two words.

OWNERSHIP _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about one animal: use **it's** to mean **it is** in one sentence, and use **its** to show ownership in the other.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Clues

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The **baker's** apron is blue.	**OWNERSHIP**	The apron belongs to the baker.
2	We **haven't** seen the comet.	**SHORTENED**	Haven't joins have and not.
3	**She'll** carry the lantern.	**SHORTENED**	She'll joins she and will.
4	The **twins'** bikes are outside.	**OWNERSHIP**	The bikes belong to the twins.
5	My **friend's** sketch won a prize.	**OWNERSHIP**	The sketch belongs to the friend.
6	The **dogs'** bowls are empty.	**OWNERSHIP**	The bowls belong to the dogs.
7	**I'd** rather read tonight.	**SHORTENED**	In this sentence, I'd joins I and would.
8	The **fox's** den is hidden.	**OWNERSHIP**	The den belongs to the fox.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two numbered items, one from each category, and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OWNERSHIP**: The librarian's keys jingled.
- **SHORTENED**: They've finished the puzzle.

Challenge: It's hiding under the porch. Its tail is muddy.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that name the owner and what belongs to it or give the two full words in a shortened form. In the challenge, **its** shows ownership without an apostrophe.