12.2 Plural vs Possessive s: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Saturday at the Allotment Club

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Written specifically for this grammar worksheet pack; not derived from or based on any published work, past paper or copyrighted text.

Every Saturday morning, Ravi's grandad opens the gate to the allotment club and switches on the old kettle in the shed. The gardeners arrive one by one, carrying trowels, buckets and packets of seeds. Mrs Patel's plot is the tidiest in the whole club, with rows of carrots, beetroots and lettuces lined up like soldiers. The twins' vegetable patch, on the other hand, is a cheerful mess of sunflowers, courgettes and runner beans that climb higher every week. Ravi likes to check the strawberries' progress before anyone else arrives, tasting one when nobody is looking. Last week, the children's competition for the tallest sunflower caused a great deal of excitement, and Mr Okonkwo's giant plant eventually won by a whole head. The volunteers' job on Saturdays is to water the young seedlings and pull up any weeds before the sun gets too hot. By lunchtime, the gardeners' baskets are full of fresh vegetables, and everyone shares a slice of Grandad's famous flapjack before heading home.

1 Sort the six words below into the correct column of the table, according to what each one shows.

Word bank: ponies | pony's | ponies' | builders | builder's | builders'

Plain plural (no possession)	Singular possessive (one owner)	Plural possessive (more than one owner)

(6)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

2 The paragraph below contains three apostrophe errors: two greengrocer's apostrophes (apostrophes wrongly added to plain plurals) and one missing apostrophe (a possessive noun that needs one). Find the three errors, then rewrite the paragraph with all three corrected.

On Saturday, Ravi's friend Amir came to help for the first time. The gardener's showed him how to plant carrot's in neat rows, and by the end of the morning the two boys hands were covered in soil.

(3)

---

3 Read the two sentences below.

A) The gardener's plot was full of ripe tomatoes.
B) The gardeners' plot was full of ripe tomatoes.

Explain how the position of the apostrophe changes the meaning of the two sentences.

(2)

---

4 Write a short paragraph (two to three sentences) about a club, hobby or trip of your own choosing. Your paragraph must include: one plain plural noun, one singular possessive noun, one plural possessive noun (a regular plural ending in -s') and one irregular plural possessive noun (for example men's, women's, children's or people's). Underline all four nouns and label each one.

(5)

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk

Mark scheme · 12.2 Plural vs Possessive s: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

ponies sorted as a plain plural cao	**B1**
builders sorted as a plain plural cao	**B1**
pony's sorted as a singular possessive cao	**B1**
builder's sorted as a singular possessive cao	**B1**
ponies' sorted as a plural possessive cao	**B1**
builders' sorted as a plural possessive cao	**B1**

Answer:

Plain plural (no possession)	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
ponies	pony's	ponies'
builders	builder's	builders'

Question 2

gardener's corrected to gardeners (greengrocer's apostrophe removed - plain plural, subject of showed) cao	**B1**
carrot's corrected to carrots (greengrocer's apostrophe removed - plain plural, object of plant) cao	**B1**
boys hands corrected to boys' hands (missing plural possessive apostrophe added - two boys own the hands) cao	**B1**

Answer: **On Saturday, Ravi's friend Amir came to help for the first time. The gardeners showed him how to plant carrots in neat rows, and by the end of the morning the two boys' hands were covered in soil.**

Question 3

explains that in A the apostrophe before the s shows the plot belongs to just one gardener	**B1**
explains that in B the apostrophe after the s shows the plot belongs to more than one gardener (oe)	**B1**

Answer: **In sentence A, the apostrophe comes before the s, showing the plot belongs to just one gardener. In sentence B, the apostrophe comes after the s, showing the plot belongs to more than one gardener.**

Question 4

correctly used and labelled plain plural noun	**B1**
correctly punctuated and labelled singular possessive noun	**B1**
correctly punctuated and labelled plural possessive noun (regular, ending in -s')	**B1**
correctly punctuated and labelled irregular plural possessive noun	**B1**
paragraph is written in connected, coherent sentences about a club, hobby or trip	**B1**

Answer: **Every week, the choir members (plain plural) practise in the church hall. Mrs Kaur's daughter (singular possessive) always arrives early to set out the chairs. The singers' favourite song (plural possessive) is a lively one about summer, and the children's voices (irregular plural possessive) ring out the loudest of all.**

© Revision Library | revisionlibrary.co.uk