8.9 Apostrophes for Plural Possession: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

A Night at the Discovery Museum

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The Year 7 overnight trip to the Discovery Museum began with a scramble of bags and sleeping mats in the entrance hall. Mr Alavi, the trip leader, checked the students' name badges against his list before letting anyone through the turnstiles. 'Straight to the dinosaur gallery, please,' he called, holding up the museum's enormous bronze key.

By seven o'clock, the whole year group was sprawled beneath the skeletons' long shadows, unrolling sleeping bags between the display cases. The twins' torches flickered on and off as they hunted for the nocturnal animals exhibit, while the teachers' rota for the night watch was pinned neatly to a noticeboard near the cafe.

At midnight, a series of quiet announcements crackled over the tannoy. The security guards' final patrol swept past the meteorite display, and somewhere in the darkness, mice's tiny footprints could be heard scratching along a skirting board. Mrs Okafor's class had been assigned the space gallery, and their whispered debate about black holes lasted almost an hour.

The Joneses' minibus arrived early the next morning to collect the last few tired students, its headlights sweeping across the car park. James's badge, the only one still perfectly pinned in place, read: 'Junior Explorer - Discovery Museum.' As the children's chatter faded down the corridor, Mr Alavi finally allowed himself to sit down, the caretaker's keys still jangling from his belt.

1 Which explanation of the plural possessive apostrophe correctly describes the rule?

- ☐ A) Add 's to any plural noun whenever it appears before another noun.
- ☐ B) For a regular plural noun that already ends in -s, add the apostrophe after the s; for an irregular plural that does not end in -s, add 's, exactly as you would for a singular noun.
- ☐ C) Never use an apostrophe with a plural noun, even to show that it owns something.
- ☐ D) Always add the apostrophe before the final s of a plural noun, whatever the noun's ending.

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2 Word bank:

visitors	visitor's	visitors'	children	child's	children's

Tick whether each word in the bank above is a plain plural, a singular possessive or a plural possessive noun.

(a) visitors **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

(b) visitor's **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

(c) visitors' **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

(d) children **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

(e) child's **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

(f) children's **(1)**

- ☐ A) Plain plural
- ☐ B) Singular possessive
- ☐ C) Plural possessive

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3 Each sentence below has one apostrophe error connected to plural possession. It might be a missing apostrophe, a misplaced apostrophe, or an apostrophe that should not be there at all. Find the error and rewrite each sentence correctly.

(a) The three guides torches lit up the meteorite display. **(1)**

(b) Fresh badge's were handed out at the entrance desk. **(1)**

(c) The childrens' coats were hung on a long row of pegs. **(1)**

(d) The two class's project was praised by the head teacher. **(1)**

4 Write one sentence of your own for each instruction below, set in a school or community context of your choice. Use a correctly punctuated word each time.

(a) Write a sentence using a plain plural noun (no apostrophe needed). **(1)**

(b) Write a sentence using a singular possessive noun (one owner). **(1)**

(c) Write a sentence using a plural possessive noun (more than one owner, a regular plural ending in -s'). **(1)**

(d) Write a sentence using an irregular plural possessive noun (for example men's, women's, children's or people's). **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 8.9 Apostrophes for Plural Possession: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B — **B1**

Answer: **B**

Question 2

(a) A ticked, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **A) Plain plural**

(b) B ticked, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) Singular possessive**

(c) C ticked, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **C) Plural possessive**

(d) A ticked, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **A) Plain plural**

(e) B ticked, cao — **B1**

(e) Answer: **B) Singular possessive**

(f) C ticked, cao — **B1**

(f) Answer: **C) Plural possessive**

Question 3

(a) guides' (missing plural possessive apostrophe added) cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **The three guides' torches lit up the meteorite display.**

(b) badges (apostrophe removed; badge's is not a possessive here, just a plain plural) cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **Fresh badges were handed out at the entrance desk.**

(c) children's (irregular plural possessive corrected; children does not end in s, so the apostrophe goes before the final s) cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **The children's coats were hung on a long row of pegs.**

(d) classes' (plural possessive corrected; two classes share the project) cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **The two classes' project was praised by the head teacher.**

Question 4

(a) any correct sentence using a plain plural noun with no apostrophe (oe) — **B1**

(a) Answer: **The runners lined up at the start of the cross-country race.**

(b) any correct sentence using a correctly punctuated singular possessive noun (oe) — **B1**

(b) Answer: **The runner's number was pinned crookedly to her vest.**

(c) any correct sentence using a correctly punctuated plural possessive noun ending in -s' (oe) — **B1**

(c) Answer: **The runners' times were posted on the noticeboard after the race.**

(d) any correct sentence using a correctly punctuated irregular plural possessive noun (oe) — **B1**

(d) Answer: **The women's relay team collected their medals first.**

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