8.9 Apostrophes for Plural Possession: 30-minute Pack

about 30 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 Three museum guides share one box of torches between them for the night watch. Which sentence below is correctly punctuated?

- ☐ A) The guides torches lit up the fossil cabinet.
- ☐ B) The guide's torches lit up the fossil cabinet.
- ☐ C) The guides' torches lit up the fossil cabinet.
- ☐ D) The guides's torches lit up the fossil cabinet.

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2 Identify and correct the error in this sentence: 'The three sisters bikes were left outside the hall.'

(2)

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3 Which of these is NOT an example of a plural possessive noun?

- ☐ A) teachers'
- ☐ B) children's
- ☐ C) badges
- ☐ D) guides'

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4 In each set of three words below, two show the same type of noun (plain plural, singular possessive or plural possessive) and one is different. Circle the odd one out in each set.

(a) foxes fox's vixens **(1)**

- ☐ foxes
- ☐ fox's
- ☐ vixens

(b) ladies' lady's babies' **(1)**

- ☐ ladies'
- ☐ lady's
- ☐ babies'

(c) men's children's boys' **(1)**

- ☐ men's
- ☐ children's
- ☐ boys'

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5 Complete each sentence with the correct form of the noun in brackets. You may need to add just an s, an apostrophe, or both.

(a) The ___ (visitor) waited while their badges were scanned at the turnstile. **(1)**

(b) The ___ (museum) largest gallery stayed open until midnight. **(1)**

(c) The three ___ (guide) torches lit up the fossil cabinet. **(1)**

(d) Several ___ (child) voices echoed around the entrance hall. **(1)**

6 Complete the table below. Write the plain plural, singular possessive and plural possessive form of each noun.

Noun	Plain plural	Singular possessive (one owner)	Plural possessive (more than one owner)
fox			
lady			
woman			

(9)

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7 A compound noun such as sister-in-law or passer-by forms its possessive by adding an apostrophe (and s, if needed) to the END of the whole compound, not to the word in the middle.

(a) One sister-in-law owns the car parked outside. Complete: The ___ (sister-in-law) car was parked outside. **(1)**

(b) Two sisters-in-law share one car parked outside. Complete: The ___ (sisters-in-law) car was parked outside. **(1)**

(c) Which sentence correctly shows that a set of coats belongs to more than one passer-by? **(1)**

- ☐ A) The passers-by's coats were left in the cloakroom.
- ☐ B) The passer-bys' coats were left in the cloakroom.
- ☐ C) The passerbys' coats were left in the cloakroom.

8 Read the two sentences below.

A) The teacher's rota was pinned to the board.
B) The teachers' rota was pinned to the board.

Explain how the position of the apostrophe changes the meaning of each sentence.

(2)

9 Write one sentence of your own for each instruction below.

(a) Write a sentence naming two people who jointly own ONE thing (joint possession). **(1)**

(b) Write a sentence naming two people who each own their OWN separate thing (separate possession). **(1)**

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10 Write a short paragraph (approximately 60-90 words) about a school trip, club or event of your own choosing. Your writing must include: one plain plural noun, one singular possessive noun, one regular plural possessive noun (ending in -s'), one irregular plural possessive noun (for example men's, women's, children's or people's), and one example of joint or separate possession using two named people. Underline each of these five features and label each one.

(10)

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11 When two owners share ONE thing, only the second name takes the possessive ending (joint possession). When two owners each have their OWN separate thing, both names take a possessive ending (separate possession). Use this rule to answer the questions below.

(a) Priya and Tom share one project folder between them. Which sentence is correctly punctuated? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Priya's and Tom's project folder
- ☐ B) Priya and Tom's project folder
- ☐ C) Priya and Toms' project folder

(b) Priya and Tom each have their own separate project folder. Which sentence is correctly punctuated? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Priya's and Tom's project folders
- ☐ B) Priya and Tom's project folders
- ☐ C) Priya and Toms's project folders

(c) 'The head teacher's and the deputy head's offices are on the top floor.' Does this sentence show joint possession or separate possession? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Joint possession (one shared office)
- ☐ B) Separate possession (two different offices)

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Mark scheme · 8.9 Apostrophes for Plural Possession: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

C **B1**

Answer: **C**

Question 2

identifies that 'sisters' needs a plural possessive apostrophe, since the bikes belong to three sisters **B1**

correct rewrite: The three sisters' bikes were left outside the hall, cao **B1**

Answer: **The three sisters' bikes were left outside the hall.**

Question 3

C **B1**

Answer: **C**

Question 4

(a) fox's circled cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **fox's**

(b) lady's circled cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **lady's**

(c) boys' circled cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **boys'**

Question 5

(a) visitors cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **visitors**

(b) museum's cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **museum's**

(c) guides' cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **guides'**

(d) children's cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **children's**

Question 6

foxes cao **B1**

fox's cao **B1**

foxes' cao **B1**

ladies cao **B1**

lady's cao **B1**

ladies' cao **B1**

women cao **B1**

woman's cao **B1**

women's cao **B1**

Answer:

Noun	Plain plural	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
fox	foxes	fox's	foxes'
lady	ladies	lady's	ladies'
woman	women	woman's	women's

Question 7

(a) sister-in-law's cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **sister-in-law's**

(b) sisters-in-law's cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **sisters-in-law's**

(c) A cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **A**

Question 8

explains that in A the apostrophe before the s shows the rota belongs to just one teacher **B1**

explains that in B the apostrophe after the s shows the rota belongs to more than one teacher, shared between them (oe) **B1**

Answer: **In sentence A, the apostrophe comes before the s, showing the rota belongs to just one teacher. In sentence B, the apostrophe comes after the s, showing the rota belongs to more than one teacher and is shared between them.**

Question 9

(a) any correct sentence in which only the second of two named people takes a possessive ending, showing one shared item (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: **Aisha and Ben's tent blew over in the wind.**

(b) any correct sentence in which both named people take their own possessive ending, showing two separate items (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: **Aisha's and Ben's tents blew over in the wind.**

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Question 10

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple description of the trip, club or event; little sense of organisation or a consistent voice.	**1-2**
Level 2 Some relevant, engaged description of the event; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly, with an attempt at a consistent voice.	**3-4**
Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing description of the event in a consistent, well-judged voice; well organised with a genuine sense of the writer's experience.	**5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (plural possession) (AO6)

Level 1 Fewer than three of the five required features are present, or they are used incorrectly.	**1**
Level 2 Most of the five required features are present and mostly accurate, with occasional errors.	**2-3**
Level 3 All five required features are present, clearly marked and used accurately, alongside generally accurate spelling and punctuation.	**4**

Indicative content:

- Paragraph uses a consistent first-person or third-person viewpoint and a consistent tense
- A plain plural noun is used with no apostrophe
- A singular possessive noun correctly places the apostrophe before the s
- A regular plural possessive noun (already ending in -s) correctly places the apostrophe after the s
- An irregular plural possessive noun correctly adds 's, as for a singular noun
- One example of joint or separate possession using two named people is correctly punctuated
- Underlining and labelling clearly identify all five required features

Question 11

(a) B cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **B**

(b) A cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **A**

(c) B cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B**

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