

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #73

FOCUS Apostrophes (Singular Possessives)

Use **apostrophes** for **singular possessives**.

CONNECT TO WRITING

For a singular possessive noun (a noun showing ownership), place an apostrophe at the end of the noun and add an *s*.

- If the noun ends in an *s* and the *s* has a *z* sound, you may choose to make it a possessive by adding an apostrophe, then an *s*, or simply end with an apostrophe.
Example: Charles's friend or Charles' friend
- Do not use an apostrophe before the *s* in a simple plural noun.
- Do not use an apostrophe with a possessive pronoun (*yours, his, hers, ours, yours, its, theirs*)
Examples: Joe's skill is amazing, and so is Chris's, but Miles' (or Miles's) skill is tops.

PRACTICE

Place apostrophes in the proper places for singular possessives in the following limericks.

There once was a child's horse named Skittish,

Its upbringing definitely British.

The poor horse's tail was once yanked by a male

from London's own Twickenham fittish.

There once was a rose's bright bloom

Whose fragrance invaded Mom's room

Nature's petals will fall, and at the end of it all,

Life's beauty swept out by a broom.

WRITE

Write two sentences with two singular possessives.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #72 Practice Answers

1. Jackie Smith (1845-1910) worked in the women's rights movement. You should read some of her descriptive letters (the ones to Charlene).
2. That new Bed and Breakfast (it was once a barn) is a popular rental with out-of-town visitors.
3. The Nile River (the longest river in the world) flows 4,000 miles through Egypt and the Sudan.
4. The common daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) can make a beautiful spring bouquet.
5. Thomas Jefferson (the author of the Declaration of Independence) seemed confused: he spoke out against the evils of slavery, but he himself owned slaves.
6. As you turn right, you will notice a large yellow house (the one with a white picket fence) and its remarkable front porch.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #73 Practice Answers

child's, horse's London's, rose's, Mom's Nature's, Life's

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #74 Practice Answers

1. Will the Firemen's Ball be held on the same weekend as last year?
2. The Smiths' house is perfect for our graduation party.
3. Will the puppies' food change over the next month?
4. I think that the women's group meets every other Tuesday at the clubhouse.
5. The Children's Crusade was led by Nicholas in response to a dream.
6. Let's watch the girls' basketball game before we go miniature golfing.
7. Have the boys asked to borrow their parents' cars for the night?
8. The county restaurants' plans to offer any left-over food to the homeless were ambitious.
9. There is no doubt that workers' rights to health have not been fulfilled.
10. That Thompsons' front yard needs some major clean-up, if you ask me.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #75 Practice Answers

1. I need the following items: toothpaste, a toothbrush, a comb, and soap.
2. The magician performed a trick: It was more of a miracle.
3. The philosopher Santayana commented upon the value of history: Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.
4. Please play these pieces: "Aria and Fugue," "Suite in D Major," and "The 3rd Symphony."
5. Only one fact remains true: Things never happen as planned.
6. She knew the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
7. The principal's rules were posted: Be Kind, Share with Others, Don't Touch.