

Understanding Possessive Nouns _____

Explanation: Possessive nouns are used to show the ownership (or relationship) of objects, thoughts, or people. An apostrophe (') is generally placed either before or after an s to demonstrate this ownership.

-For regular singular nouns, the apostrophe comes **before** the "s."

The boy's hat was on backwards. (The hat belongs to one boy.)

I thought Tricia's idea was fantastic! (The idea belongs to Tricia.)

-For regular plural nouns, the apostrophe comes **after** the "s."

The pencils' points were broken. (More than one pencil had a broken point, and the points belong to the pencils.)

Luis saw the birds' nest. (The nest belongs to more than one bird.)

Directions: In the following sentence, explain the ownership the apostrophe is showing and to whom it is being shown. The first one is done for you.

It was sad that Meg's shirt was torn.

Meg is one person, and the shirt belongs to her.

The bees' hive was buzzing with activity.

I was not sure whether the dog's water bowl was filled.

My mother's bracelet was lost on the hike.

The students' bathroom was very messy.

No one could believe the tornado's power!

When understanding apostrophes in possessive nouns, I feel:

_____ confident

_____ unsure

_____ I need help!

Understanding Possessive Nouns Answer Key

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Directions: In the following sentence, explain the ownership the apostrophe is showing and to whom it is being shown. The first one is done for you.

It was sad that Meg's shirt was torn.

Meg is one person, and the shirt belongs to her.

The bees' hive was buzzing with activity.

There are many bees (more than one), and the hive belongs to them.

I was not sure whether the dog's water bowl was filled.

There is one dog, and the water bowl belongs to him or her.

My mother's bracelet was lost on the hike.

There is only one mother, and the bracelet belongs to her.

The students' bathroom was very messy.

There are many students (more than one), and the bathroom belongs to them.

No one could believe the tornado's power!

There is one tornado, and the power belongs to it.