Apostrophes A

15n. To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.

EXAMPLES  the sun’s rays   James’s scooter   the city’s mayor

15o. To form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.

EXAMPLES  people’s votes   men’s shirts   the children’s toys

15p. To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.

EXAMPLES  the classes’ election   the Petersons’ snowmobile

EXERCISE A  Above each underlined noun, write the correct possessive form.

Example 1.  four weeks’ supply

1. three doctors’ opinions
2. Mrs. King’s business
3. Chris’s bicycle
4. the mice’s favorite hiding place
5. in ten years’ time
6. the women’s locker room
7. the team’s beloved mascot
8. New Orleans’ jazz scene
9. two sisters’ secret
10. the Wilsons’ house

EXERCISE B  In each sentence, underline the word that should be in the possessive case. Above the word, write its correct possessive form.

Example 1.  The five winners’ photographs are on page one of the newsletter.

11. The Mount Vernon Chorus sang Jason favorite songs.
12. One student brother had a minor accident in that big blue car.
13. The Garcias’ new neighbor is Sandra Johnson.
14. The banjo with broken strings is Jennifer.
15. Carlotta’s voice was hoarse from cheering for the volleyball team.
16. The raindrops patter could be heard on the tin roof.
17. We brought a day supply of granola bars, water, and sandwiches.
18. The photographer won an award for that picture of the wolves’ den.
19. Do you know Carlos’s e-mail address?
20. This weekend’s homework is written on the chalkboard.
Apostrophes B

15q. Do not use an apostrophe with possessive personal pronouns.

EXAMPLES The red car is theirs. Whose car is that?

15r. To form the possessive case of some indefinite pronouns, add an apostrophe and an s.

EXAMPLES somebody’s notes everyone’s idea

EXERCISE A Above each pronoun, write the correct possessive form. If a pronoun is already correct, write C.

Examples 1. somebody lost puppy
          2. its new paint

1. anyone’s guess
2. everybody’s friend
3. her money
4. your skates
5. neither basketball
6. someone’s science book
7. anybody’s opportunity
8. The car is theirs.
9. no one’s first choice
10. Those books are yours.

EXERCISE B In the following paragraph, underline each possessive personal pronoun and each indefinite pronoun. Then, above each indefinite pronoun, write the correct possessive form.

Example [1] Someone’s trash is another person’s treasure, in my opinion.

[11] Everybody’s unwanted items can bring in a few coins at a garage sale. [12] When my family organized our garage sale, everybody’s attention was devoted to the project. [13] One night, someone’s dreams even focused on our garage sale! [14] We spent several days writing down anyone’s ideas. [15] We finally decided to make a list of everyone’s items for sale. [16] Soon, a friendly disagreement occurred when two different people thought the iron was theirs. [17] Dad claimed it was his, but Tanya was sure it was hers. [18] In the end, of course, no one’s possessions made him or her rich. [19] We set out everybody’s items together during the garage sale and then equally divided the profit. [20] We were all quite happy with our success.