

Grammar Practice

Name Class Date

9.3-4 Distinguishing Plurals, Possessives, and Contractions

Key Information

Possessive nouns name who or what owns or has something. They can be singular or plural.

The **dogs'** names are Trooper and Sam.
Traci's dog can do tricks.

To form the possessive of all singular nouns and plural nouns not ending in *s*, add an apostrophe and *s*.

sun	sun's
men	men's
boss	boss's

To form the possessive of plural nouns already ending in *s*, add only an apostrophe.

girls **girls'**

An apostrophe is also used to indicate where letters have been left out in a contraction. A **contraction** is a word made by combining two words into one by leaving out one or more letters.

Brad's the fastest runner in the school.
(*Brad is*)

A. Forming Possessives and Contractions

Add apostrophes where needed and indicate whether the word with the apostrophe is a singular possessive noun, a plural possessive noun, or a contraction by writing *S*, *P*, or *C* in the space next to the word.

1. The new flashlights beam is powerful. _____
2. Charles Babbages invention led to the modern computer. _____
3. These trees bark must be stripped before their wood can be made into paper. _____
4. Deannes familys moving to Tennessee. _____
5. This songs words are difficult to understand. _____
6. The girls uniforms were attractive and practical. _____

B. Using Possessives and Contractions

Underline the word in parentheses that correctly completes the sentence.

1. This (cartoons, cartoon's) characters are realistic.
2. Our (newspapers', newspaper's) late this morning.
3. Tighten these (guitars', guitar's) strings.
4. (Joans, Joan's) Siamese cat won a prize at the pet show.