

Apostrophes for Possession

Activity Booklet

Contents

Colour in each of the stars as you complete an activity in this activity booklet.



Apostrophes for Possession Explained for Parents and Carers



Jungle Apostrophes



Missing Apostrophe



Brain Break: Mindfulness Colouring Quote



Apostrophe Answers



The Possessive Apostrophe



Brain Break: Origami Lotus Flower



Be the Teacher!



Singular or Plural Sort



Singular or Plural Sentences



Brain Break: Space Crossword



Complete the Sentence



Be the Teacher! 2

Look out for the monkey's coconuts and count how many there are throughout the booklet!



Apostrophes for Possession Explained for Parents and Carers

Apostrophes are used to show possession – who something belongs to. For instance, in the following sentence, the pencil belongs to Sheba:

The pencil belonging to Sheba was on the table.

However, in English, we generally use the apostrophe to show possession:

Sheba's pencil was on the table.

Singular Possessive

The general rule for showing possession is to add an apostrophe to the end of the word and then an s ('s). Look at the following examples:

The Lion's paws were big.

The cat's whiskers twitched.

The dog's tail wagged.

However, if a singular noun already ends in s, an apostrophe is placed after the s but we do not add a further s. For example:

The Octopus' tentacles were long.

The Rhinoceros' horn was sharp.

The Walrus' teeth were sharp.

Plural Possessive

A lot of the confusion with children and apostrophe use comes with plural nouns. A plural noun means more than one, i.e. boys, cats, monkeys etc. When a plural noun ends with s we simply put the apostrophe after the s. For example:

The howls belonging to the wolves.

becomes

The wolves' howls.

Apostrophes for Possession Explained for Parents and Carers

This can cause some confusion when we look at the following examples:

The boy's socks were on the bench.

The boys' socks were on the bench.

In the first example, there is one boy and his socks are on the bench. However, in the second example, the position of the apostrophe lets the reader know that there is more than one boy and all their socks are on the bench.

But, when a plural noun doesn't end in s (like children), we add an apostrophe and s ('s) to the end of the word. For example:

The books belonging to the children.

is written

The children's books.

Its or It's

Its and it's are often confused when children are writing at home so this would be good to clarify with your children to ensure they use these words correctly in their independent writing. It's is a contraction and is short for it is, whereas its is used to show possession. A good tip is to encourage your child to say the sentence out loud to check if it should be it is (it's) or its. For example:

The dog was very excited – its tail didn't stop wagging!

The dog was very excited – it's tail didn't stop wagging!

In the examples above, the first sentence is correct as it is showing possession so we use its. In the second example, we can't say 'it is tail didn't stop wagging' so we know we can't use the contraction it's.

Jungle Apostrophes

Choose the Sentence with the Correct Apostrophe

Oh dear! Bruce has been writing some sentences, but he isn't sure where to put the apostrophe to show possession with a **singular noun**. He has written each sentence out twice. Help him by ticking the sentence which uses an apostrophe correctly in each pair.

1. The tiger's roar echoed through the trees.

The tigers roar echoed through the tree's.

2. The snake's coils were hanging from the tree.

The snakes coil's were hanging from the tree.

3. In a clearing, the birds tweet's echoed.

In a clearing, the bird's tweets echoed.

4. As Summer arrived, the bear's fur began to shed in large patches across its body.

As Summer arrived, the bears fur began to shed in large patche's across its body.

5. The elephant's tusks parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.

The elephants tusk's parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.



Missing Apostrophe

Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has printed a worksheet for his class but the printer is broken... It hasn't printed the apostrophes! Please write out each sentence again with the missing apostrophe.

1. Staceys mum always bakes a cake at the weekend

[Stacey's mum always bakes a cake at the weekend.](#)

2. In the sea, the sharks fin sliced through the water.

[In the sea, the sharks' fin sliced through the water.](#)

3. Charlies football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!

[Charlie's football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!](#)

4. Spains weather can get very hot, especially in summer.

[Spain's weather can get very hot, especially in summer.](#)

5. The lions roar echoed through the savannah.

[The lions' roar echoed through the savannah.](#)

6. The cars engine suddenly stopped working.

[The car's engine suddenly stopped working.](#)

7. In the evening, Marcus dog barked because he was hungry.

[In the evening, Marcus' dog barked because he was hungry.](#)

8. The firefighters job was to put out the fire.

[The firefighters' job was to put out the fire.](#)



Brain Break: Mindfulness Colouring



Apostrophe Answers

We use apostrophes to show ownership or possession. Below, you will find a list of questions. Write an answer to each question using a **singular noun** with an apostrophe. Remember that to show possession you normally add an apostrophe and the letter s ('s) to the end of the noun. However, be careful with nouns ending in an s as we only need to add an apostrophe after the final s. For example:

Whose cake had the best flavour?

Mary's cake had the best flavour.

1. Whose fur is very silky?

2. Whose neck is very long?

3. Whose spaceship is faster than lightspeed?

4. Whose car has flashing blue lights?

5. Whose coat was lost?

6. Whose favourite stories are all about dragons?



The Possessive Apostrophe

Change each of the sentences below so that they each contain an apostrophe to show possession.

For example:

The tail belonging to the dog wagged.

The dog's tail wagged.

1. The bike belonging to the man.

2. The doll belonging to the girl.

3. The dog belonging to the old woman.

4. The wings belonging to the unicorn flapped.

5. The horn belonging to the car beeped loudly.

6. The claws belonging to the tiger were sharp.

7. The light of the moon pierced through the clouds.

8. The fins belonging to the fish sparkled in the water.



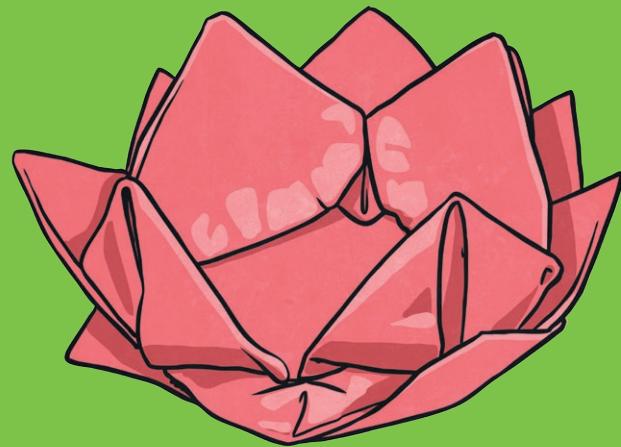
Brain Break: Origami Lotus Flower

You will need:

A piece of paper
(25cm x 25cm)

Tip:

The bigger the piece of paper, the bigger the lotus flower will be, making it easier to work with.



Instructions

1. First, fold the piece of paper in half by lifting the top right hand corner and matching it up with the bottom left hand corner. Flatten down to make a crease.
2. Next, unfold and repeat this instruction in the opposite direction (top left hand corner to match up with the bottom right hand corner). When you unfold your paper, you should see a fold in the shape of a cross.
3. After that, fold each corner of your square into the centre point of the paper (where the two fold lines intersect) and flatten down. Once finished, you should now have a smaller square.
4. Next, fold each corner into the centre again to make an even smaller square.
5. Repeat each corner fold again for a third time.
6. Now turn over the square and fold each square corner into the centre as you have done before.
7. Then, take each pointed corner of the square and fold it inwards (about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the corner). You should then see an irregular octagon.
8. Next, turn your lotus flower over and pull up your first petals. Do this by gently taking each of the corner folds you made, pulling them up and pushing them back over themselves the opposite way, underneath the flower. Keep repeating this until you have done this to every flap on each layer of this side of the flower.
9. Finally, turn your flower over and there you have it! Why not see if your flower will float in water? You could also make an even bigger lotus flower by changing the original paper size.

Be the Teacher!

Correct the Apostrophe Mistakes

Professor Punctuation has lots of homework to mark but he doesn't have enough time to complete it all. Please, be the teacher by helping him to mark the work. You must cross out the incorrect apostrophes and insert apostrophes for possession. You could use a coloured pen like a teacher when you are marking the work.

The farmers' turnip had grown to a huge 'size! He needed help so' he called for all his friend's. The farmers' friend's all made a line behind him. His' wife held on to the farmers' belt. A boy placed his han'ds around the wifes' waist. Then a girl placed her hands on the boys' yellow T-shirt. Behind the girl, the dogs 'tail swung with excitement as he helped too. Finally, the cats claw's held on to the dogs tail.

They all pulled and tugged the farmer's turnip. Eventually the huge turnip popped out of the ground.

The farmers' smile grew as' he said thank you to all his helpers'.



Singular or Plural Sort

Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has dropped his word cards on the floor and now they have become mixed up! The words all contained examples of the possessive apostrophe. However, some are **singular nouns** with apostrophes and some are **plural nouns** with apostrophes. Can you sort them into two groups in the table below to help him?

Singular	Plural	
aliens'	wolves'	wolf's
actor's	elephants'	alien's
boys'	witches'	witch's
actors'	elephant's	boy's



Challenge

Write a sentence of your own using one of the plural nouns with a possessive apostrophe.

Singular or Plural Sentences

In the sentences below, an apostrophe has been used to show possession. However, in one option it shows an apostrophe being used with a **singular noun** and in the other it shows the apostrophe being used with a **plural noun**. Tick the sentence which shows the apostrophe being used with a plural noun.

1. The babies' bottles were all lined up on the side ready for feeding time.
The baby's bottles were all lined up on the side ready for feeding time.

2. The wolf's howls echoed through the misty forest.
The wolves' howls echoed through the misty forest.

3. The boy's new T-shirts were on the bench.
The boys' new T-shirts were on the bench.

4. The teachers' work has to be finished after assembly.
The teacher's work has to be finished after assembly.



5. The horse's diet is mostly grass.
The horses' diet is mostly grass.



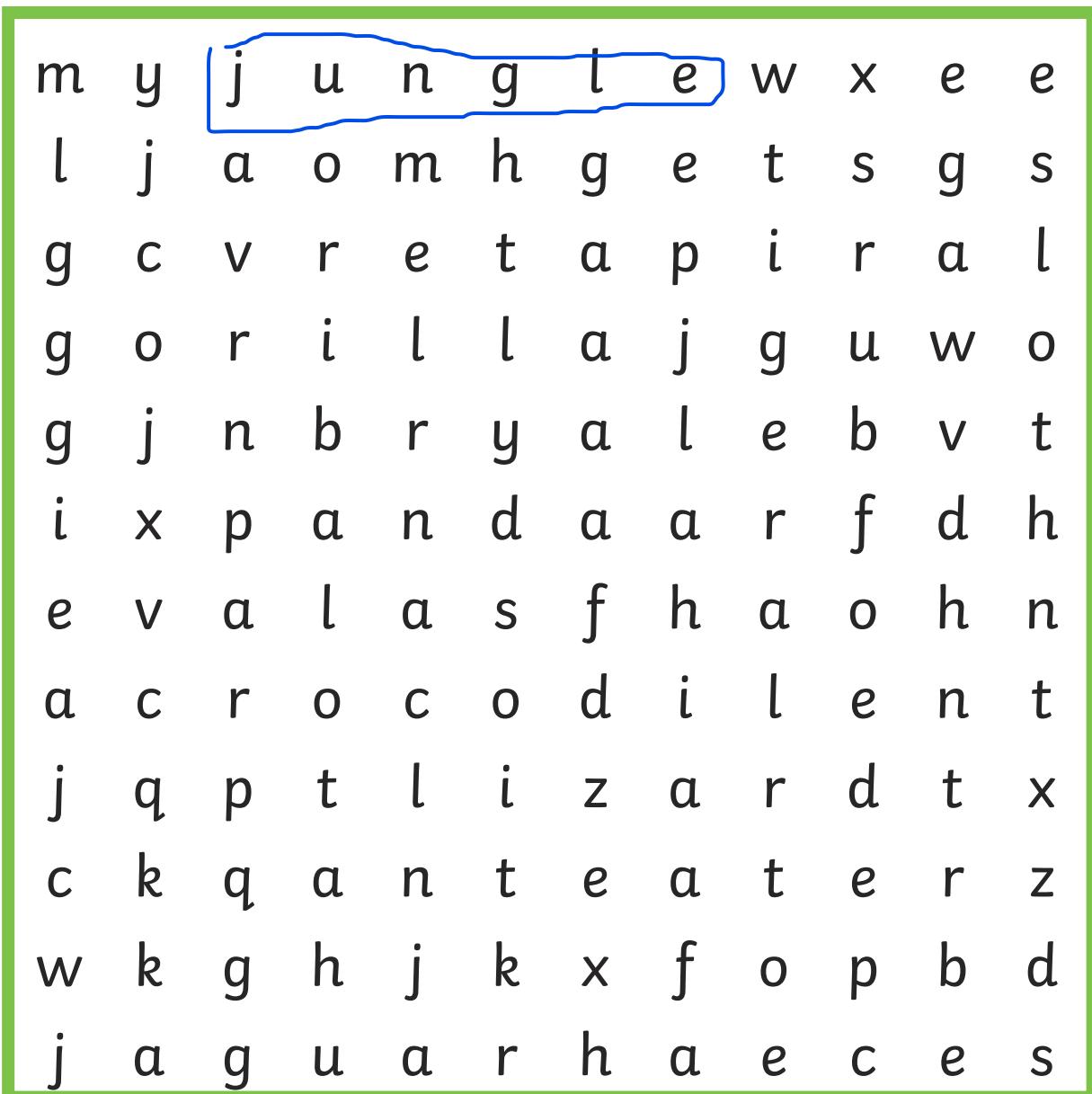
6. The girl's dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.
The girls' dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.

7. The foxes' home is underground.
The fox's home is underground.

8. The dragons' strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.
The dragon's strong wings beat swiftly through the sky.

Parent note: when completing this exercise with your child, discuss the difference in meaning between the two sentences. If your child can give a clear explanation, it shows that they have clear understanding of the difference between using apostrophes with singular and plural nouns.

Brain Break: Jungle Wordsearch



jungle

tiger

gorilla

panda

sloth

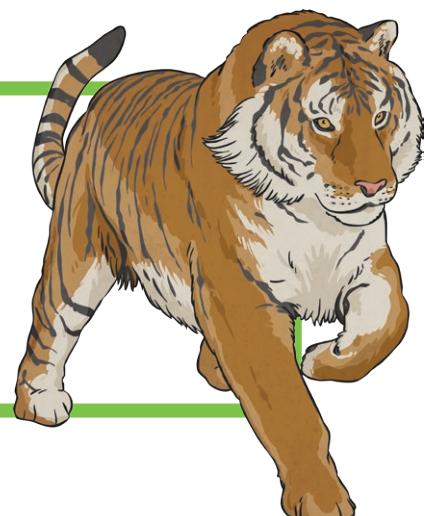
crocodile

anteater

tapir

jaguar

lizard



Complete the Sentence

Complete the sentences by making the singular noun into a plural noun and by adding an apostrophe to show possession.

1. The _____ manes waved in the gently breeze.

(Noun: lion)

2. The _____ colony was hidden high in the branches of a tree.

(Noun: ant)

3. In the forest, the _____ howled at the iridescent moon.

(Noun: wolf)

4. Mum scowled as she looked at the _____ dirty T-shirts.

(Noun: boy)

5. In the evening, the _____ loud barking disturbed all the neighbours.

(Noun: dog)

6. Everybody ate lots of food at the _____ party.

(Noun: child)

7. Bang went the gun at the start of the _____ 100m race final.

(Noun: man)

8. The _____ fur was washed and brushed ready for the Parade.

(Noun: pony)



Be the Teacher! 2

Professor Punctuation is marking his class' homework again but he needs help to complete all the work. Please, be the teacher and mark the piece of work below. The children had to use apostrophes to show possession with **plural nouns**. Cross out the wrong apostrophes and add the correct apostrophe in the right place.



In the forest, the wolve's howls' echoed as the tree's branches' swayed in the wind. Underground, in the foxe's home, they huddled together to get warm. In the trees', the squirrel's feet pattered as they scrambled up and down the branches' looking for food. In a clearing, the childrens' hands' shivered with cold. On the childrens' head, were warm, woollen hats' and scarve's around their necks. The scarve's tassels fluttered like snowflakes'. On their feet, all the shoe's laces froze in the cold weather. From close by, the adult's shouts' floated on the wind. The boy's faces' began to smile as it was time to go home and get warm.

Jungle Apostrophes Answers

Choose the Sentence with the Correct Apostrophe

Oh dear! Bruce has been writing some sentences, but he isn't sure where to put the apostrophe to show possession with a **singular noun**. He has written each sentence out twice. Help him by ticking the sentence which uses an apostrophe correctly in each pair.

1. **The tiger's roar echoed through the trees.**



The tigers roar echoed through the tree's.



2. **The snake's coils were hanging from the tree.**



The snakes coil's were hanging from the tree.



3. In a clearing, the birds tweet's echoed.



In a clearing, the bird's tweets echoed.



4. **As Summer arrived, the bear's fur began to shed in large patches across its body.**



As Summer arrived, the bears fur began to shed in large patche's across its body.



5. **The elephant's tusks parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.**



The elephants tusk's parted the branches as it walked through the jungle.



There were 10 coconuts all together! Did you find them all?



Missing Apostrophe Answers

Oh dear! Professor Punctuation has printed a worksheet for his class but the printer is broken... It hasn't printed the apostrophes! Please write out each sentence again with the missing apostrophe.

1. Staceys mum always bakes a cake at the weekend

Stacey's mum always bakes a cake at the weekend.

2. In the sea, the sharks fin sliced through the water.

In the sea, the shark's fins sliced through the water.

3. Charlies football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!

Charlie's football went over the wall when he kicked it too high!

4. Spains weather can get very hot, especially in summer.

Spain's weather can get very hot, especially in summer.

5. The lions roar echoed through the savannah.

The lion's roar echoed through the savannah.

6. The cars engine suddenly stopped working.

The car's engine suddenly stopped working.

7. In the evening, Marcus dog barked because he was hungry.

In the evening, Marcus' dog barked because he was hungry.

8. The firefighters job was to put out the fire.

The firefighter's job was to put out the fire.



Apostrophe Answers Answers

We use apostrophes to show ownership or possession. Below you will find a list of questions. Write an answer to each question using a **singular noun** with an apostrophe. Remember that to show possession you normally add an apostrophe and the letter s ('s) to the end of the noun. However, be careful with nouns ending in an s as we only need to add an apostrophe after the final s. For example:

Whose cake had the best flavour?
Mary's cake had the best flavour.

Parent note: Please accept any sentence that makes sense whilst including an apostrophe for possession. You will find some example answers in the spaces provided.

1. Whose fur is very silky?

The cat's fur is very silky.

2. Whose neck is very long?

The giraffe's neck is very long.

3. Whose spaceship is faster than lightspeed?

The alien's spaceship is faster than lightspeed.

4. Whose car has flashing blue lights?

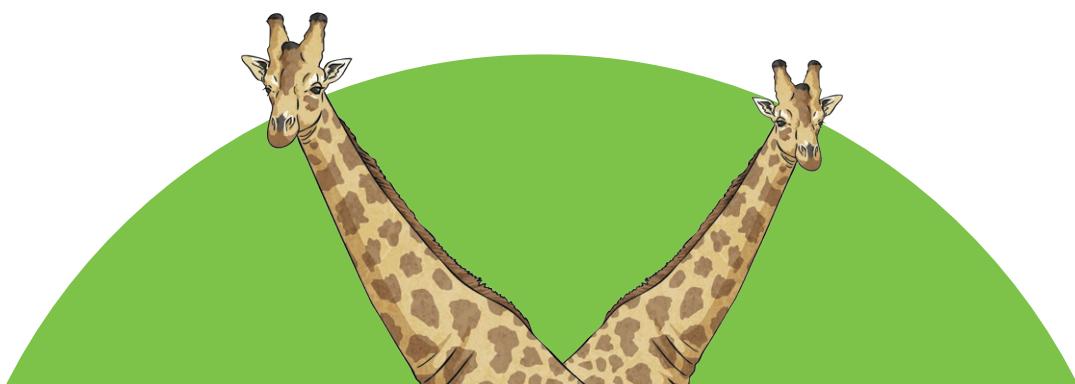
The policeman's car has flashing blue lights.

5. Whose coat was lost?

The girl's coat was lost.

6. Whose favourite stories are all about dragons?

Gabriella's favourite stories are all about dragons.



The Possessive Apostrophe Answers

Change each of the sentences below so that they each contain an apostrophe to show possession.

For example:

The tail belonging to the dog wagged.

The dog's tail wagged.

1. The bike belonging to the man.

The man's bike.

2. The doll belonging to the girl.

The girl's doll.

3. The dog belonging to the old woman.

The old woman's dog

4. The wings belonging to the unicorn flapped.

The unicorn's wings flapped.

5. The horn belonging to the car beeped loudly.

The car's horn beeped loudly.

6. The claws belonging to the tiger were sharp.

The tiger's claws were sharp.

7. The light of the moon pierced through the clouds.

The moon's light pierced through the clouds.

8. The fins belonging to the fish sparkled in the water.

The fish's fins sparkled in the water.



Be the Teacher! Answers

Correct the Apostrophe Mistakes

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Singular	Plural
boy's	boys'
witch's	witches'
wolf's	wolves'
actor's	actors'
elephant's	elephants'
alien's	aliens'

aliens'	wolves'	wolf's
actor's	elephants'	alien's
boys'	witches'	witch's
actors'	elephant's	boy's

Singular or Plural Sentences Answers

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3. The boy's new T-shirts were on the bench.

The boys' new T-shirts were on the bench.

4. **The teachers' work has to be finished after assembly.**

The teacher's work has to be finished after assembly.

5. The horse's diet is mostly grass.

The horses' diet is mostly grass.

6. The girl's dresses were hung up in the wardrobe.

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The fox's home is underground.

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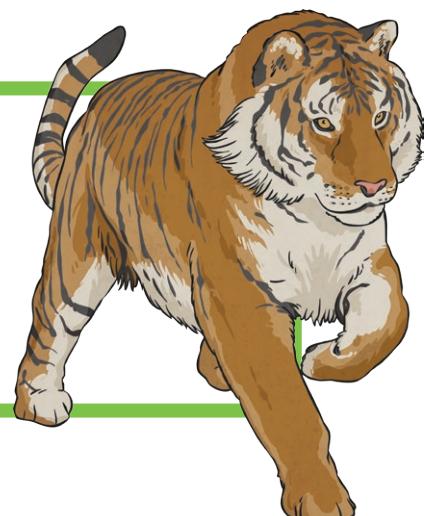
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Brain Break: Jungle Wordsearch Answers

m	y	j	u	n	g	l	e	w	x	e	e
l	j	a	o	m	h	g	e	t	s	g	\$
g	c	v	r	e	t	a	p	i	r	a	l
g	o	r	i	l	l	a	j	g	u	w	o
g	j	n	b	r	y	a	l	e	b	v	t
i	x	p	a	n	d	a	a	r	f	d	h
e	v	a	l	a	s	f	h	a	o	h	n
a	c	r	o	c	o	d	i	l	e	n	t
j	q	p	t	t	i	z	a	r	d	t	x
c	k	q	a	n	t	e	a	t	e	r	z
w	k	g	h	j	k	x	f	o	p	b	d
j	a	g	u	a	r	h	a	e	c	e	s

jungle
tiger
gorilla
panda

sloth
crocodile
anteater
tapir



Complete the Sentence Answers

Complete the sentences by making the singular noun into a plural noun and by adding an apostrophe to show possession.

1. The **lions'** manes waved in the gently breeze.

(Noun: lion)

2. The **ants'** colony was hidden high in the branches of a tree.

(Noun: ant)

3. In the forest, the **wolves'** howled at the iridescent moon.

(Noun: wolf)

4. Mum scowled as she looked at the **boys'** dirty T-shirts.

(Noun: boy)

5. In the evening, the **dogs'** loud barking disturbed all the neighbours.

(Noun: dog)

6. Everybody ate lots of food at the **children's** party.

(Noun: child)

7. Bang went the gun at the start of the **men's** 100m race final.

(Noun: man)

8. The **ponies'** fur was washed and brushed ready for the Parade.

(Noun: pony)



Be the Teacher! 2 Answers

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