

Week 15: Singular Possessives vs. Plurals + Personification

Name _____

Date _____

Day One: Teacher-Directed Mini-Lesson

Small difference in spelling- BIG difference in meaning

The words *captain's* and *captains* have similar spellings but very different meanings. Study the information and examples below to help you determine when to use each one correctly.

1. The word *captain's* is a possessive noun. You can spot it in a sentence because a possessive noun uses an apostrophe! If you use this word in a sentence, then you must also have something in the same sentence that belongs to the captain: something that the captain *possesses or owns*.

Ex: The captain's uniform was clean and neatly pressed.

What does the captain possess or own in the example sentence?

Draw an arrow from the word captain's to what he owns.

2. The word *captains* is a plural noun. We add the letter *-s* to show that there is more than one captain. Using this word does not indicate that the captain possesses or owns something in the sentence. Often, clue words or phrases like *many, all of the, several,* or a number word hint that there is more than one captain. When these clues are present, you use a plural noun.

Ex: All of the captains met to learn about the battle plan.

What phrase gives you a clue that that there was more than one captain in the example? **Circle the clue words.**

Choose the correct word for each sentence below.

Use arrows and circle clue words as you did in the examples above.

(captain's captains)

3. General Holland met with the _____ today.
4. A _____ hat was the finishing touch for Jason's Halloween costume.
5. "It is the _____ job to lead the Veteran's Day Parade," Tom announced.
6. Eight _____ will be needed for the intramural teams.

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Day Two: Teacher Note: see Mini-Lesson

Identify the noun that is being personified in the descriptive sentence below. Explain why the sentence includes an example of personification.

Example: The geyser spat boiling mineral water into the air with force. What is being personified? The geyser is being personified.

Explain: A geyser can't spit. Spitting is usually done by a person.

1. In the meadow, the lone tree stretched its limbs skyward. What is being personified? _____

Explain: _____

Choose the correct word for each sentence below. Draw an arrow from the possessive noun to what is owned **or** circle clue words.

(**referee's** **referees**)

- The crowd cheered the _____ decision.
- The pelting rain had made a mess of the soccer field; even the _____ uniform was muddy.
- "All of our _____ have been thoroughly trained in dealing with injuries," boasted the chairman of the league.

Choose the correct word for each sentence below.

(**there** **their** **they're**)

- "_____ all ready at the starting line," said Meg.
- All contestants turned to watch for the approach of the runner on _____ relay team.
- In perfect precision, all the runners began running at a speed that matched the pace of _____ teammates. They were preparing to receive a baton in the hand-off.

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Day Three:

1. The letters **T, S, S, S** can remind you of the reasons an author starts a new paragraph. Name each reason.

T _____ **S** _____
S _____ **S** _____

In this expository piece there are five paragraphs. Use a different color of pencil to circle each paragraph. To the left of the passage, write the reason for starting a new paragraph and identify the main idea of each paragraph.

Reason for new paragraph:

Main idea of paragraph 1:

Reason for new paragraph:

Main idea of paragraph 2:

Reason for new paragraph:

Main idea of paragraph 3:

Reason for new paragraph:

Main idea of paragraph 4:

Reason for new paragraph:

Main idea of paragraph 5:

SPIDER MONKEYS IN MOTION

With three possible methods of locomotion, agile spider monkeys easily navigate the rainforests of Central and South America. The wide variety of ways they can move makes them well suited to their habitat. Their favored method of movement is called brachiating. This type of movement allows them to swing from branch to branch and tree to tree using both arms while maintaining a tail-hold. Brachiating is useful when they are aloft, and they can travel as far as forty feet with one arm stride. Quadrupedal locomotion is another form of movement for spider monkeys. When in this mode, they employ both their arms and legs to carry them swiftly over the ground. Quadrupedal locomotion is useful when they are walking or running and traveling to a new location. Occasionally, spider monkeys use only their feet, which is considered bi-pedal locomotion. They are one of the few kinds of monkeys capable of standing, walking, and leaping on two feet without the use of their arms. These three methods of locomotion serve the spider monkey well in evading predators, yet they are extremely endangered. Human activity in the form of logging and deforestation has reduced their habitat and shrinks the space that spider monkeys call home.

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Day Four:

Choose the sentence which uses correct capitalization and punctuation.

- 1. Nicholas it is my turn to pay for the pizza.
 Tunisha, my cousin, will be visiting during vacation.
 I won't be able to come over today Abby.
 Yes I have my backpack packed.

- 2. Mom asked "How are you coming on your homework?"
 Megan answered, "I'm done almost with everything".
 Mom cheered, "Good for you!"
 megan replied, "It helps when I start before I am tired."

Identify the noun that is being personified in the descriptive sentence below. Explain why the example is personification.

- 3. Thunder grumbled through the valley following the lightning.
What is being personified? _____

Explain: _____

Underline the verb or verbs in each sentence twice.

- 4. Donovan is a star goalie for the team.

- 5. Celeste wanted ham, turkey, and cheese on her sandwich.

Choose the correct word for each sentence below.
Draw an arrow from the possessive noun to what is owned **or** circle clue words.

(lion's lions)

- 6. A pride of _____ moved slowly across the savanna.

- 7. The gazelle succumbed to the _____ attack.

- 8. The female _____ ruff is not as large as that of the male lion.

- 9. The roar of several _____ punctuated the silence.

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Day Five: Assessment

Choose the sentence which is correct.

- 1. "I've got my birthday list ready," offered Sam with a smile.
 "I'll bet you do." said Dad grinning.
 "I know you like to plan ahead," Added Sam.
 "So, you think we're getting you something" asked Dad?

- 2. Dad sighed, "I can't seem to find my keys".
 Mom asked, "have you checked your coat pocket?"
 Dad smiled "There they are!"
 Mom added, "It happens to me all the time."

- 3. Andrew asked "Do you want to go to the movie on Friday?"
 Damen replied, "No, I have a basketball game".
 "Maybe we could go on Saturday," Andrew offered.
 "I think that would work" Damen said.

Identify the noun that is being personified in the descriptive sentence below. Explain why the example is personification.

4. The sun hid from view behind the thick, murky clouds.
What is being personified? _____

Explain: _____

Choose the correct word for each sentence below.
Draw an arrow from the possessive to what is owned / **or** circle clue words.

(conductor's conductors)

- 5. The audience waited with hushed anticipation as the _____ baton was lifted.

- 6. Some prominent _____ were interviewed by the symphony board for the job opening.

- 7. Two guest _____ were introduced as the concert began.

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Day Five: Assessment-p2

Choose the sentence which uses correct grammar.

8. Me and Mom have dentist appointments today.
 Mom and I have dentist appointments today.
 Mom and me have dentist appointments today.
 I and Mom have dentist appointments today.

Underline the verb or verbs in each sentence twice.

9. Madeline combed her hair, brushed her teeth, and made her bed.
10. Ernesto felt sad after the playoff game.
11. Alaska is a rich source of many natural resources.

If there is an error in an underlined section, make the correction in the space above. If there is no error, write OK above the underlined word or phrase.

A spider monkey is considered by many to be the "supreme acrobat of the rainforest." These monkeys are characterized by their long tails, slender limbs and great agility. The spider monkeys agility is due in large part to a well adapted prehensile tail which is capable of grasping. These tail have flexible, hairless tips complete with skin grooves which are similar to fingerprints. This highly developed tactile feature allow spider monkeys to use their tails as effectively as another hand. Perfectly adapted to they're rainforest setting, these nimble monkey's spend most of their time aloft and rarely come down to the forest floor.