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Preview Material
SHOW POSSESSION:
APOSTROPHES

When you want to show possession or ownership, follow these rules for apostrophes (‘):

- For singular nouns (including those ending in s), add apostrophe + s.
  For example: my sister’s car means “the car belonging to my sister”
- For plural nouns ending in s, add only an apostrophe.
  For example: my sisters’ car means “the car belonging to several of my sisters”
- For plural nouns not ending in s, add apostrophe + s.
  For example: the women’s car means “the car belonging to several women”
- For two or more nouns that own something together, make only the last noun possessive.
  For example: my brother and sister’s car means “the car belonging to my brother and sister”
- For two or more nouns that each own something separately, make each of the nouns possessive.
  For example: my brother’s and sister’s cars means “the car that belongs to my brother and the car that belongs to my sister”

A. For each scenario below, underline the answer that uses apostrophes correctly.

1. My mom and dad each own a bicycle.
   a) My mom’s and dad’s bicycles.
   b) My mom and dad’s bicycle.

2. The children share a scooter.
   a) The children’s scooters.
   b) The children’s scooter.

B. Explain the meaning of each phrase below, based on the placement of the apostrophes.

1. My friends’ cottage: The cottage belongs to several friends
2. My friend’s cottage: The cottage belongs to one friend
3. My friends’ cottages: Their are several cottages and they belong to several friends

C. Write a sentence about camping that shows a possessive relationship between each pair of words below.

1. tent / pole: When we went camping, we had trouble keeping the tent’s pole in the ground.

2. canoes / paddles: When the storm came, all of the canoes’ paddles got blown into the lake.

D. Find a partner and write two new sentences using the word pairs in Exercise C.
Research is not just what you do to find an answer. Research is an essential part of learning and an important part of the writing process.

The methods you use for your research will affect the quality of the information you get, whether you are researching the parts of a plant to label a diagram in a science report or a historical time period to make a story character’s dialogue more realistic. Good information makes good writing: what you put in, you get out.

In this section, you will learn about the skills that make an effective researcher.

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

— Zora Neale Hurston