

### G3 Mini-Module: Possessives

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.2.D:

- Form and use possessives.

#### Welcome

To show that something belongs to something else, writers need to use words called possessives. With nouns, this is usually done by adding an apostrophe (') and the letter *s* to the end of the word. Pronouns have their own possessive forms, like *my*, *hers*, and *their*. Knowing how to form possessives is a very important part of a writer's skills.

#### Objectives

In this module, students will learn and practice how to:

- form and use possessive nouns.
- form and use possessive pronouns.

#### Review

##### Key Terms

- A **noun** is a person, place, thing, or idea.
  - **Singular** nouns name one noun.
  - **Plural** nouns name more than one noun.
- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun.

Nouns are words like *brother*, *dog*, and *house*. Pronouns are words like *I*, *you*, and *we*.

#### Exploring the Standard

When writers need to show that something belongs to something else, they use a **possessive**. There are two basic types of possessives: possessive nouns and possessive pronouns.

Here is an example of a sentence that uses a possessive noun:

Take off the **jar's** lid.

In this sentence, the word **jar's** is a possessive noun. It shows that the lid belongs to the jar.

Here is an example of a sentence that uses a possessive pronoun:

Miguel got into **his** car.

In this sentence, the word **his** is a possessive pronoun. It shows that the car belongs to Miguel.

#### Caution

Sometimes a writer uses *of* to show that one noun belongs to another. For example, a writer could say, "Take off the lid of the jar." In this structure, an apostrophe is not needed.

### A Closer Look: Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns show that one noun belongs to another noun. To form a possessive noun, an apostrophe (') is usually added to the end of the noun, followed by the letter *s*.

#### Singular Nouns

Here is an example of a sentence that uses the usual pattern to make a singular noun possessive:

He had to get his **son's** bicycle fixed.

In this sentence, the word **son's** is a possessive noun. It shows that the bicycle belongs to the son. *Son* is a singular noun that does not end in *s*, so it follows the regular pattern. It adds an apostrophe and the letter *s*.

#### Watch!

This short video shows how an apostrophe and the letter *s* can make a word possessive:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5ME\\_u3KGPI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5ME_u3KGPI)

If a singular noun already ends in *s*, the pattern changes. There are two possible ways to make a possessive in this case:

**Mr. Jones'** favorite hobby is hiking. OR **Mr. Jones's** favorite hobby is hiking.

The noun *Mr. Jones* already ends in *s*, so only an apostrophe is needed to make it possessive (**Mr. Jones'**). Some writers choose to use an additional *s* in these cases (**Mr. Jones's**). Both styles are correct, but writers should choose one style to use instead of switching back and forth.

#### Plural Nouns

Most plural nouns already end in *s*. For these nouns, the usual possessive form just adds an apostrophe to the end of the word. Here is an example:

She watched the **kangaroos'** feet as they hopped.

In this sentence, the word **kangaroos'** is a possessive plural noun. It shows that the feet belong to more than one kangaroo.

Some plural nouns do not end in *s*. For those, the possessive form adds an apostrophe and the letter *s*. Here is an example:

Madeleine cleared the **women's** plates when they were finished eating.