

Grade 3 Playlist: 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 playlist, 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

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.



Teaching Notes: Possessives

The goal of L.3.2.D is for students to understand how to form and use possessives. This playlist covers both possessive nouns and possessive pronouns. Although the term “possessive pronouns” is sometimes used only with the words *mine*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, *ours*, and *theirs*, in this playlist it is used more broadly to include possessive adjectives as well (*my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their*). The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms.

Common Mistakes with Possessive Pronouns

There are a couple of common mistakes students make with the possessive pronouns covered in this playlist. The first is to confuse the possessive pronoun *its* with the contraction *it's*. *It's* means *it is*. Here is an example of how the two different words are used:

The horse shook **its** tail.

In this sentence, **its** is a possessive pronoun that shows the tail belongs to the horse.

It's raining outside.

In this sentence, **it's** is a contraction meaning *it is*.

The other common mistake is to confuse the possessive pronoun *their* with the contraction *they're* or the word *there*. *They're* means *they are*, and *there* refers to location. Here is an example of how the three different words are used:

The students did well on **their** test.

In this sentence, **their** is a possessive pronoun that shows the tests belong to the students.

The students are excited because **they're** finished with class.

In this sentence, **they're** is a contraction meaning *they are*.

The students are all going over **there**.

In this sentence, **there** refers to the location where the students are going.

