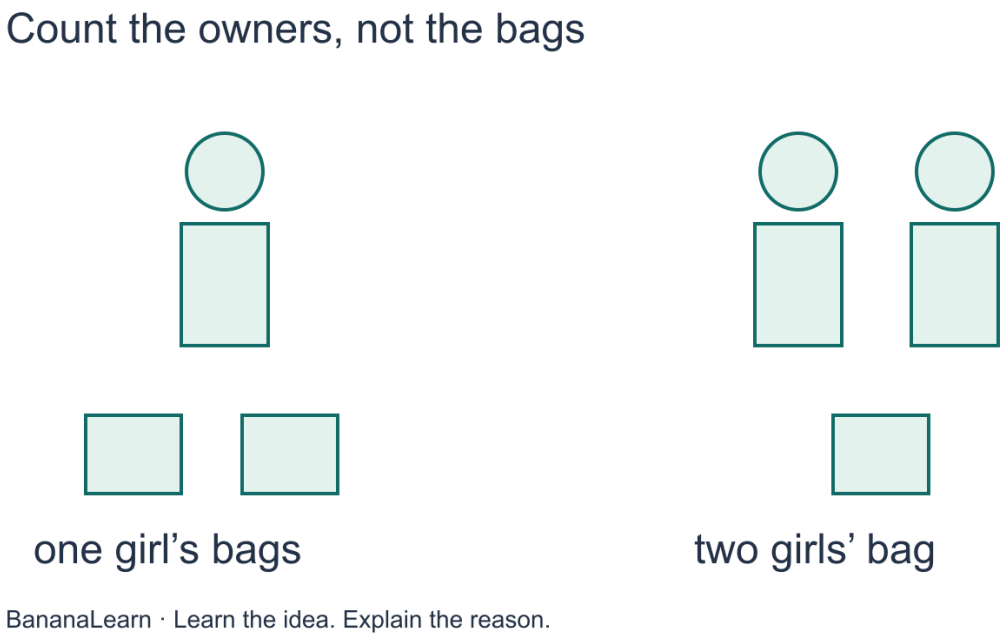
Possessive apostrophes: one owner or several?

Grade 5 · Practice and answer pack

The girl’s bags and the girls’ bags may describe the same number of bags. The apostrophe tells us about the owners, not how many objects they own.

For a singular owner, usually add ’s. For a regular plural owner ending in s, add an apostrophe after the s. For an irregular plural such as children, add ’s.

Independent BananaLearn resource. Not an official exam paper or endorsed assessment.



One girl can own multiple bags. Two girls can share one bag. Apostrophe position follows the owners.

Matching complete guide

bananalearn.com/learn/grade-5-possessive-apostrophes.html

Try before looking at the answers

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

Show your method or explain your choice. Work through a short group at a time. Questions are original practice, not a complete syllabus assessment.

1. The coat belonging to one boy

2. The changing room for several players

3. Books belonging to several women

4. Choose: The bird spread its / it’s wings.

5. Fix: We bought three apple’s.

6. One rabbit, two ears: write the phrase.

7. Several rabbits sharing a hutch

8. Coats belonging to children

9. Correct “three apple’s”.

10. Correct “the bag is her’s”.

11. Expand “The dog’s escaped”.

12. How many owners in “the girls’ bicycle”?

13. Is “the teachers notes” enough information to choose an apostrophe?

Answers and reasoning

Compare the explanation as well as the answer. If a method is unclear, revisit the matching guide and try a changed example.

1. The coat belonging to one boy

the boy’s coat

Singular boy takes ’s.

2. The changing room for several players

the players’ changing room

Plural players ends in s.

3. Books belonging to several women

the women’s books

Women is plural but does not end in s.

4. Choose: The bird spread its / it’s wings.

its

It is wings does not make sense.

5. Fix: We bought three apple’s.

We bought three apples.

This is an ordinary plural, not possession.

6. One rabbit, two ears: write the phrase.

the rabbit’s ears

The owner is singular.

7. Several rabbits sharing a hutch

the rabbits’ hutch

The plural owner already ends in s.

8. Coats belonging to children

children’s coats

Children is an irregular plural.

9. Correct “three apple’s”.

three apples

A plain plural needs no apostrophe.

10. Correct “the bag is her’s”.

the bag is hers

Possessive hers has no apostrophe.

11. Expand “The dog’s escaped”.

The dog has escaped.

Here ’s is a contraction.

12. How many owners in “the girls’ bicycle”?

More than one girl

One bicycle can be shared; the object count does not determine the apostrophe.

13. Is “the teachers notes” enough information to choose an apostrophe?

No

Find out whether one teacher or several teachers own the notes.

Check understanding

• Did you identify the owner and its number?

• Is the s a plural, contraction or possessive?

• Have you left hers, yours, theirs and its without apostrophes?