

Apostrophes of Possession

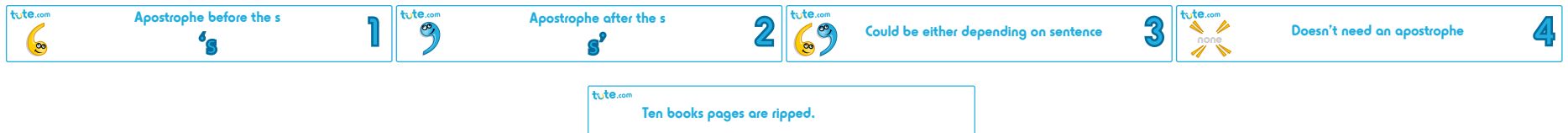


Activity

Instructions:

Activity

- Print and cut out the cards numbered 1 – 4. These are the headings.
- Cut out the remaining cards into strips. Mix the cards up.
- Each card should look something like this:



Work with your child to decide which heading each card should be placed under. Encourage your child to think about the meaning of the sentence. Look for clues which let you know if it's talking about a singular or plural word, for example: somebody's name or a numerical reference indicating more than one.

When you have completed the activity, check your answers with those on the back page.

tute.com



Apostrophe before the s

's

1

tute.com



Apostrophe after the s

s'

2

tute.com



Could be either depending on sentence

3

tute.com



Doesn't need an apostrophe

4

That is Toms car.

The students union is good.

The cars lights are broken.

Your apple pies are delicious.

I like Joans coat.

The dogs tails are wagging.

The cats whiskers are silver.

Sams college is closed.

It is the receptionists party.

James shops in Tesco.

Ten books pages are ripped.

Julies pen is red.

The clothes are clean.

Janes son is ill.



Answers

Apostrophe before the s

That is Toms car.	Tom's
I like Joans coat.	Joan's
Janes son is ill.	Jane's
Sams college is closed.	Sam's



These are all people. There is only one Tom, only one Joan etc so the apostrophe goes before the s.

Apostrophe after the s

The dogs tails are wagging.	dogs'
Ten books pages are ripped.	books'



We can tell by the sentence that there is more than one dog because of the word 'are'. It is unlikely that one dog would have two tails! We know books must be plural because there are ten of them!

Could be either

The students union is good.	student's or students'
The cars lights are broken.	car's or cars'
The cats whiskers are silver.	cat's or cats'
It is the receptionists party.	receptionist's or receptionists'



All of these would depend on context. We don't know if 'The students union is good' is talking about one student in a union (student's union) or lots of students who are in the same union (students' union).

Doesn't need an apostrophe

Your apple pies are delicious.
The clothes are clean.
James shops in Tesco.



Apple pies and clothes are just plural words. They don't own anything so they don't need an apostrophe. James doesn't own anything. The s is there because his name ends in s. He isn't called Jame. We wouldn't say Toms shops in Tesco.