



NOUNS: Confusion of Plurals & Possessives

modified from Language Skills & Use wkbk., page 8

An apostrophe is used to form the possessive of a noun. It is almost never used to form the plural of a noun.

Name

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Directions for Part I:

Choose the correct form of the noun in parentheses for each sentence by writing it under the correct heading below. Correct form, apostrophe placement if necessary, and spelling all count. (3X5=15)

	choose correct form	possessive (may be singular or plural)	it is only plural (not possessive) candidates
Example:	The (candidates, candidate's) debated.		
1.	The (ladies' , ladies) worked during the election.		
2.	They put posters on the (streets' , streets) light posts.		
3.	Some (men , men's) helped address envelopes.		
4.	The ballot (box's , boxes) were sealed.		
5.	The (workers , worker's) voted early on election day.		

Directions for Part II:

For the bold, underlined, foot-noted nouns below, circle if it is: (1) singular possessive (2) plural (3) plural possessive. (15)

Major league baseball's¹ history in the United States had interesting origins.² Baseball came from England's³ sports of cricket and rounders. Cricket players⁴ used a bat to hit a pitched ball. However, cricket players'⁵ bats were not round, but flat. In rounders, hitters⁶ also used a bat and a ball as well as bases⁷. The fielder's⁸ job was to throw the ball in the runner's⁹ path. If the fielder hit a runner with the ball, the runner was called out.

Organized baseball's¹⁰ first teams were comprised of lawyers, doctors, bankers, and clerks. Historians¹¹ believe that the first organized team was called the Knickerbockers. Their experiments with the game's¹² rules resulted in today's¹³ game of baseball. At one time, the teams'¹⁴ players numbered eight, but after the shortstop's¹⁵ position was added, there were nine players.

1.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	2.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	3.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive
4.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	5.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	6.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive
7.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	8.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	9.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive
10.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	11.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	12.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive
13.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	14.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive	15.	singular possessive	plural	plural possessive