

Read and Analyze

Apostrophes in Possessives and Contractions

Unit 7: Lesson 76

8th gr.
Lang. Arts

Lesson 4
Day 4

Are these bracelets from the 1920s made of ivory? No, **they're** made from Bakelite. Today Bakelite bracelets are **collectors'** items.

Which boldfaced word shows possession or ownership? _____

Which boldfaced word is a combination of two words? _____

To form the **possessive** of a singular noun, add an **apostrophe** and **-s** (*girl's shoe*). For plural nouns that end in **-s**, add an **apostrophe** (*birds' nests*) to form the possessive. For plural nouns that do not end in **-s**, add an **apostrophe** and **-s** (*children's boots*). **Apostrophes** are also used in **contractions**, two words that have been shortened and combined.

See Handbook Sections 7, 26, 28, 30

Practice

Circle the correct word in parentheses. If the answer is a possessive, write *possessive*. If the answer is a contraction, write the two words from which the contraction was made.

1. Some natural (resin's/resins') properties are similar to those of plastics. _____
2. One (material's/materials') properties made it ideal for items such as brush handles. _____
3. That material was called lac; (lac's/lacs') purified form was called shellac. _____
4. Unfortunately, natural materials that could be molded (werent'/weren't) easy to find. _____
5. Some (product's/products') compositions made them turn brittle over time. _____
6. Many (researcher's/researchers') efforts focused on altering natural materials. _____
7. One (man's/mans') efforts to create a more useful material produced a substance later called celluloid.

8. The (substance's/substances) uses included products such as dentures and photographic films. _____
9. (Celluloid's/Celluloids') advantages were that it was hard and it could be easily molded when hot.

10. Unfortunately, it (wasn't/wasnt') stable around heat. _____
11. One (chemist's/chemists') goal was to make a useful synthetic shellac. _____
12. Leo Baekeland mixed two chemical compounds, but he (didn't/did'nt) come up with what he was after.

13. Instead, he created the first pure plastic; this (product's/products') name became *Bakelite*. _____
14. Soon many household items—from telephones to cooking (utensil's/utensils') handles—were made of Bakelite. _____
15. (Baekeland's/Baekelands') discovery gave rise to the plastics industry. _____

Apply

Rewrite these sentences. Replace boldfaced words with possessives or contractions.

16. Leo Baekeland **could not** have realized just how widespread plastics would become. _____

17. The homes of most people are filled with plastic goods. _____

18. The adaptability of plastic allows it to be shaped into almost any form. _____

19. The toughness or softness of a **plastic product** can vary, depending on its chemical composition. _____

20. Unfortunately, plastics **do not** decompose quickly. _____

21. One of the biggest environmental **problems of today** is how to dispose of used plastic. _____

Reinforce

Writers sometimes use contractions to reflect the way that words are pronounced in informal speech. These contractions sometimes look like possessives. Read the following examples. The first sentence contains a possessive noun. The second sentence contains a contraction.

1. My friend's bicycle has a flat.

The bicycle of my friend has a flat.

2. My friend's coming over.

My friend is coming over.

Read each sentence below. Then rewrite the sentence by replacing the possessive noun or contraction with an expression having the same meaning.

22. "This book's plot is quite gripping," said Ralph. _____

23. "The heroine's trying to find a secret formula," he continued. _____

24. "The mad scientist's a dangerous character," he added. _____

25. Ralph concluded by saying, "The heroine's quick thinking saves her from the mad scientist's evil plan." _____
