

Grade 2 • Lesson 24: Words That Denote Possession**THE POSSESSIVE APOSTROPHE****Language Rule: The Little Apostrophe (')**

Add an apostrophe and an s ('s) to name the owner of something.

When writing *John's slate* or *Mary's lamb*, the little apostrophe shows who owns the object.

A MODEL COPYWORK: MARKING POSSESSION

Copy each statement neatly on the guidelines, placing the apostrophe (') correctly to show ownership:

1. This is John's slate.

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2. Mary's lamb is white.

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3. The duck's bill is broad.

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4. The dog's name is Bose.

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5. The bird's nest is in the tree.

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B SENTENCE COMPOSITION

Write two original statements about a friend, classmate, or animal using an apostrophe ('s) to show possession:

1.

2.

Lesson 24: Teacher Guide & Master Solutions

GENITIVE CASE • SINGULAR POSSESSIVE APOSTROPHE

The Origin and Function of the Apostrophe of Possession: In Old and Middle English, the genitive singular ending was -es (e.g., *John-es slate*). As the vowel weakened and silenced, the apostrophe was introduced to mark the elision of the letter e. In Grade 2, children learn to distinguish the possessive 's (signifying an owner) from the plural -s (signifying more than one).

- Section A: Model Transcription & Punctuation Check:**
- 1. **This is John's slate.** [Proper noun *John* capitalized + 's; terminal period].
 - 2. **Mary's lamb is white.** [Proper noun *Mary* capitalized + 's; terminal period].
 - 3. **The duck's bill is broad.** [Common animal noun *duck* + 's; terminal period].
 - 4. **The dog's name is Bose.** [*dog's* with apostrophe; proper name *Bose* capitalized].
 - 5. **The bird's nest is in the tree.** [*bird's* with apostrophe; terminal period].

- Section B: Exemplar Student Compositions (Accept equivalent sentences):**
- *My brother's kitten has soft gray paws.*
 - *The horse's mane is long and shiny.*

- Common Orthographic Pitfalls:**
- *Omission of the apostrophe:* Writing *Johns slate or *Marys lamb.
 - *Misplacing the mark:* Placing the apostrophe after the s (*Johns' slate). Remind pupils: the mark goes directly between the owner's name and the s.

Evaluation Criterion	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (1-2)
Apostrophe Placement	100% correct placement of ' s in all 5 copywork sentences and both original sentences.	Apostrophe correctly placed in 6 of 7 total instances.	Omitted apostrophe; treats possessives as simple plurals.
Capitalization of Names	Consistently capitalizes <i>John</i> , <i>Mary</i> , and <i>Bose</i> .	1 minor capitalization slip (e.g., lowercased *bose).	Frequent lowercase proper nouns.
Sentence Composition	Two original, well-formed statements demonstrating clear possession.	Complete sentences with minor phrasing awkwardness.	Incomplete thoughts or missing possessive nouns.
Penmanship & Mechanics	Neat script sitting firmly on guidelines with clear ascenders and correct end periods.	Legible handwriting; 1 punctuation slip.	Untidy handwriting, omitted terminal periods.