

Lesson 1.3 Plurals and Possessives

Although plural and possessive nouns often sound similar, they are spelled differently and have different meanings.

Plural noun: The *novelists* gathered in Chicago for a conference.

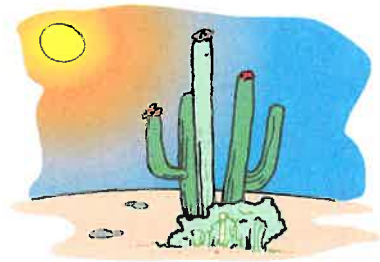
Singular possessive noun: The *novelist's* main character traveled to Chicago.

Plural possessive noun: The *novelists'* meeting was postponed until next month.

Proof It

Use proofreaders' marks to correct the mistakes in plural and possessive nouns in the sentences below.

1. Deserts' cover about 20 percent of Earths surfaces.
2. Harsh conditions mean that deserts are home to animals with special adaptations.
3. Deserts inhabitant's include lizards, snakes, fennec foxes, and scorpions.
4. Our planets largest habitat is the marine biome.
5. Biomes relationships are vital to Earth's well-being.
6. Hippo's, rhino's, and lion's make their homes in grassland biomes.
7. The tundras extreme cold makes it a poor place for vegetation to flourish.
8. One reason that forest biomes' are important to Earth is tree's ability to absorb carbon dioxide.
9. Hot, semiarid, coastal, and cold are the four types of desert's.
10. Mosquitoes ability to live in a tundra biome surprises many people.
11. Tropical forest's, such as rain forests, produce plants that are not found anywhere else in the world.
12. A coral reefs many structures provide homes to countless sea creature's.
13. The worlds youngest biome is the Arctic tundra.
14. An invasive animals' behavior can eventually affect more than one biome.



Lesson 1.4 Appositives

An **appositive** is a noun or phrase that renames another noun in a sentence. The appositive offers more information about the noun.

Lucille, my great aunt in Texas, owns a small art gallery.

The phrase *my great aunt in Texas* is an appositive that renames *Lucille*.

When the appositive is nonessential, or not necessary to the sentence, it should have a comma before and after it. In the example above, you can remove the appositive, and the sentence still makes sense.

When the appositive is essential to the meaning of the sentence, do not set it off with commas. In the following sentence, removing the appositive *Jane Austen* would make the sentence much less clear.

The author *Jane Austen* wrote six novels.

Identify It

In each sentence below, underline the appositive. On the line, write **E** if it is essential and **NE** if it is nonessential.

1. China, one of the world's most populated countries, is one of Earth's oldest civilizations. _____
2. Beijing, China's capital city, is also known as Peking. _____
3. Mount Everest, Earth's tallest mountain, lies on the border of China and neighboring Nepal. _____
4. The bicycle, China's main form of transportation, is a speedy and energy-efficient way to travel. _____
5. China is home to the giant panda, an animal that survives primarily on bamboo. _____
6. China's neighbor Mongolia shares the Gobi Desert with China. _____
7. Students around the world are currently learning China's official language, Mandarin Chinese. _____
8. China, a country whose history is divided into dynasties, has a communist government today. _____
9. The Chinese, talented inventors, created things like paper, compasses, porcelain, and silk. _____
10. The Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung was instrumental in China's shift to a communist government. _____