

Many scientists believe that a comet's collision with Earth caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Circle the boldfaced word that shows ownership. Circle the underlined word that names a particular place or thing.

A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns must be capitalized. A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea. A **plural noun** names more than one. Most nouns add *s* or *es* to form the plural. Some nouns change spelling in the plural form (*woman/women*). Some nouns have the same singular and plural form (*deer*). A **possessive noun** shows ownership. Most plural nouns add an apostrophe after the *s* to form the possessive (*tables/tables'*). Plurals that don't end in *s* (*men, mice*) add an apostrophe and *s* (*men's, mice's*) to show possession.

See Handbook Sections 14, 27, and 28

Part 1

Underline each singular common noun in the sentences below. Circle each plural common noun. Then draw a box around each noun that is possessive.

1. Carolyn Shoemaker was standing on a mountain near San Diego, California, with her husband, Eugene, and their co-worker, David Levy.
2. They had just discovered an unusual comet: it would later be named Shoemaker-Levy 9.
3. A comet is a ball of ice, dust, and frozen gases. Its tail is made of debris.
4. Famous comets include Halley's Comet and Comet Kohoutek.
5. Most comets orbit the sun, but Shoemaker-Levy 9 was orbiting Jupiter.
6. It had been trapped by Jupiter's gravity.
7. In July of 1992, the comet came so close to Jupiter that it separated into at least 21 parts.
8. A month after Shoemaker-Levy 9 was spotted, a Japanese amateur astronomer made a startling discovery about the comet.
9. Shuichi Nakano said that Shoemaker-Levy 9 was going to collide with the planet Jupiter!



A comet's tail can be 100 million miles long.