

Name: _____

Read and Discover

Apostrophes

Lesson 64

7

Ellis Island in New York Harbor was the first stop for many of America's immigrants between 1892 and 1924. Those immigrants **couldn't** enter the United States until they had passed several inspections there.

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

Part 1

Underline 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. In the early nineteenth century, Samuel Ellis was the (island's/islands') owner. _____
2. The United States government bought the island from Mr. Ellis in 1808 but (did'nt/didn't) start using it as an immigrant station until 1892. _____
3. More than 12 million people entered the United States through (Ellis Island's/Ellis Islands') elegant Main Building, which opened in 1900. _____
4. The dining room seated 1,200 people, but pleasing that many (wasn't/was'nt) easy. _____
5. The dietary preferences of various (country's/countries') emigrants differed greatly. _____
6. The (immigrant's/immigrants') journeys by ship took weeks or months. _____
7. Some passengers (weren't/were'nt) in good health when they arrived in America. _____
8. The (stations'/station's) Contagious Disease Hospital had eleven wards. _____
9. They were usually filled with immigrants who had contracted diseases in a (ships'/ship's) damp, crowded quarters. _____
10. Persons with infectious diseases (couldn't/couldnt') enter the United States. _____
11. In addition to undergoing medical exams, newcomers had to answer immigration (inspector's/inspectors') questions. _____
12. Inspectors wanted to make sure applicants (wouldn't/would'nt) be a burden to society. _____
13. The restrictions did not spoil (newcomer's/newcomers') dreams: only about two percent of all people processed at Ellis Island were refused admission to the United States. _____
14. Those who (didn't/did'nt) pass inspection were detained, often for weeks. _____
15. Detainees stayed in big dormitories; (mens'/men's) and (women's/womens') areas were separate.
