

Name: _____

Read and Discover

Apostrophes in Possessives and Contractions

Lesson 64

8

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

Part 1

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. _____