

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.

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