Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Identify irregular plural possessive nouns.
• Write using irregular plural possessive nouns.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns (BLM 7)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns chart, the modeling text, and the practice text (without the possessive forms in place) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns

Say: We know that nouns name people, places, or things. Sometimes we use nouns to show possession, for example, we say the children’s books. This means the books belong to the children. The word children is a plural noun, which means there is more than one child. We make most nouns plural by adding the letter s, such as boy/boys, girl/girls. Words like children are irregular plurals. When we make plural nouns such as children show possession, we add an apostrophe followed by the letter s. For example, we say the children and the children’s books. Let’s look at some more examples of showing ownership using irregular plural nouns.

Display the following chart on chart paper or on the interactive whiteboard resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irregular Plural Noun</th>
<th>Possessive Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>children’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men</td>
<td>men’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns Chart

Say: Look at the first column of the chart. These two nouns are plural, but they do not end with an s. They are irregular plural nouns. Now look at the second column. Since the nouns are plural but don’t end in s, we need to add an apostrophe and an s to the end of each word to make them possessive. So, men becomes men’s and children becomes children’s.

Model Using Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources and read it aloud to students.

Kipchoge Keino was the leader of the Kenyan men’s team, which took home eight medals in the 1968 Olympics.

Modeling Text

Say: The word men’s shows possession. It means that the team belonged to the men. The word men is a plural noun, so I needed to add an apostrophe and an s to make the word men show possession. The apostrophe and s tells readers which team I’m talking about.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns

Display the practice text on chart paper (without the possessive forms in place), or use the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with a partner to identify which nouns in the sentences are possessive nouns and then decide how to make them possessive nouns. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. There are many children’s books written about sports.
2. The store sold all my geese’s eggs in just a matter of minutes.
3. We were amazed at the mice’s success in climbing out of their cage.

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Correct Irregular Plural Possessive Nouns

Ask students to share how they would make the plural words show possession.
• Which noun in the sentence is an irregular plural noun?
• Which noun in the sentence shows possession?
• What did you do to make the noun possessive?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that some nouns are plural but don’t end in s. These nouns are irregular plural nouns. When we want to make these nouns show possession, we need to add an apostrophe and an s. Remember how to write possessive nouns in your writing.

If you would like to give students additional practice making plural nouns that don’t end in an s possessive, have them complete BLM 7.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 7. Provide corrective feedback as necessary.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Work with EL students one on one to help them understand how nouns show possession. Use familiar objects and the students to model possession. Point to students and objects in the classroom to model the concept of possession, for example: Hasim’s sweater, the teacher’s book, the children’s classroom. Write the examples on chart paper as you say them and highlight the apostrophe and s.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to identify plural nouns in the practice sentences. Make sure that students understand the meaning of each word before they begin the activity.