Showing Possession with More than One Noun

We show ownership by forming possessives. You have already learned several rules for forming possessive nouns. But, what happens when you want to talk about more than one person owning something?

If more than one person owns a thing—joint ownership—then you only add the apostrophe + “s” to the last noun.

Example: Chris and Mary live in the same house = Chris and Mary’s house

If you want to talk about more than one person owning something, but they own separate items, then you would add an apostrophe + “s” to both.

Example: Joe and Kevin live in separate houses = Joe’s and Kevin’s houses

Based on the context of the sentence, determine if the sentence is about an item owned jointly or items owned separately. Then, complete the sentence by forming the correct possessive using the nouns given.

1. __________________________ watches are very different. (Lou and Jeff)
2. __________________________ mom has long dark hair. (Sally and Joe)
3. __________________________ math teacher is very good at explaining how to work the problems. (Heather and Marie)
4. Do you think __________________________ dog is very friendly? (Summer and Heath)
5. __________________________ father must have been upset when he heard what happened to them at the well. (Jack and Jill)
6. __________________________ homework papers were lost on the bus. (Gwen and Will)
7. My __________________________ teams are playing each other tonight. (cousin and brother)
8. __________________________ routines for the gymnastics meet are both very difficult. (Samantha and Jeanette)
Answers--Showing Possession with More than One Noun

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**Based on the context of the sentence, determine if the sentence is about an item owned jointly or items owned separately. Then, complete the sentence by forming the correct possessive using the nouns given.**

1. __Lou’s and Jeff’s_______________ watches are very different. (Lou and Jeff)
2. __Sally and Joe’s_______________ mom has long dark hair. (Sally and Joe)
3. __Heather and Marie’s______________ math teacher is very good at explaining how to work the problems. (Heather and Marie)
4. Do you think __Summer and Heath’s______________ dog is very friendly? (Summer and Heath)
5. __Jack and Jill’s__________________ father must have been upset when he heard what happened to them at the well. (Jack and Jill)
6. __Gwen’s and Will’s______________ homework papers were lost on the bus. (Gwen and Will)
7. My __cousin’s and brother’s_______ teams are playing each other tonight. (cousin and brother)
8. __Samantha’s and Jeanette’s_______ routines for the gymnastics meet are both very difficult. (Samantha and Jeanette)