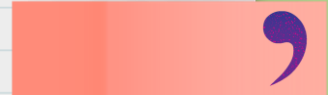


Apostrophes





Objectives

- To learn how to use apostrophes correctly
- To identify appropriate use of apostrophes showing ownership or relationship.
- To identify appropriate use of apostrophes used to shorten words.



Key term

A punctuation mark (') used to indicate either possession (e.g. Harry's book; boys' coats) or the omission of letters or numbers (e.g. can't; he's; 1 Jan. '99).

Apostrophes

```
graph TD; A[Apostrophes] --> B[Apostrophes showing possession]; A --> C[Apostrophes showing omission];
```

**Apostrophes
showing
possession**

**Apostrophes
showing
omission**

Apostrophes showing possession



To indicate possession. In English the possessive form of a noun is shown as follows:

a)

In the singular, the
possessive form is made by
adding- 's.

For example:

bird	the bird's nest
boy	the boy's football
school	the school's classroom



b)

When the plural form of a noun is made by adding-s to the singular, the possessive is shown by adding an apostrophe after the -s(**s'**).

For example:

birds	the birds' nests
boys	the boys' footballs
schools	the schools' classrooms



c)

When the plural form of a noun is **not** made by adding-s, the possessive is shown by adding **-'s**.

For example:

men	the men's cars
children	the children's books
women	the women's bags



Apostrophes showing omission



To indicate
when a letter
or letters
/numbers/ have
been missed
out of a word.

For example:



I'm	short for I am
he'll	short for he will
she'd	short for she had or she would
pick 'n' mix	short for pick and mix
didn't	short for did not
'89	short for 1989



It's or its?

These two words can cause a lot of confusion: many people are uncertain about whether or not to use an apostrophe. These are the rules to remember:

its (without an apostrophe) means 'belonging to it':

Example: The dog wagged its tail.

Each case is judged on its own merits.

it's (with an apostrophe) means 'it is' or 'it has':

Example: It's been a long day.

It's cold outside.

It's a comfortable car and it's got some great gadgets.

Exercise

Complete the following sentences by writing the apostrophe(') in the correct place:

1. This is Peters bike.
2. Paul cant find his shoes.
3. Miss Lee is marking the pupils papers.
4. They are all on the childrens playground.

5. Dont make so much noise!
6. Doctors take care of peoples health.
7. Theyre having a game of tennis.
8. Jack doesnt look well
9. The boys bedrooms were full of childrens games.
10. Anitas face was red when she realised that she had taken Nasrins book by mistake.
11. Its getting late and its time you were in bed.
12. Doctors look after peoples health.



GOOD LUCK