

Apostrophes A

15n. To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an *s*.

A proper noun ending in *s* may take only an apostrophe to form the possessive case if the addition of 's would make the name awkward to pronounce.

EXAMPLES a day's pay James's bookbag Odysseus' journey

15o. To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in *s*, add only the apostrophe.

To form the possessive of a plural noun that does not end in *s*, add an apostrophe and an *s*.

EXAMPLES the Smiths' house the students' lockers men's clothing people's rights

EXERCISE Form either the singular possessive or the plural possessive of each of the following items by adding an apostrophe or an apostrophe and an *s* where needed. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Example _____ *boy's mittens* _____ 1. boy mittens (*singular possessive*)

- _____ 1. teachers books (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 2. Davis desk (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 3. teenagers magazines (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 4. tree branches (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 5. Pattersons dog (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 6. girls lunches (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 7. mice cheese (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 8. cities lights (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 9. cars engines (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 10. chair legs (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 11. workers duties (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 12. CD marketability (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 13. foxes homes (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 14. restaurants atmosphere (*plural possessive*)
- _____ 15. Lewis invention (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 16. day wait (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 17. hood ornament (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 18. Hercules strength (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 19. Jill house (*singular possessive*)
- _____ 20. bands songs (*plural possessive*)

Apostrophes B

15p. Do not use an apostrophe with possessive personal pronouns.

EXAMPLES Is that **theirs** or **ours**? Bring me **my** book.

15q. To form the possessive case of some indefinite pronouns, add an apostrophe and an *s*.

EXAMPLES somebody's boots everyone's chance

EXERCISE Add apostrophes where necessary in each of the following items. Place each apostrophe in an upside-down caret mark to show exactly where the apostrophe should be. If a sentence is already correct, write *C* to the left of the item number.

Example 1. Someone's book was left on the table.

1. I left my book at home. Will you let me borrow yours?
2. Anybodys guess is as good as mine.
3. I have my sandwich right here. Where is yours?
4. Are you saying that this is nobodys chair?
5. John's performance was good, but hers was a little better.
6. I need a wallet for this next magic trick; anyones wallet will do.
7. My book cover is pristine, but yours looks as if it has been dragged behind a car.
8. Somebodys track shoes were left on the patio last night.
9. Although my science project is good, yours is better.
10. Is this newspaper theirs or ours?

Apostrophes C

15n. To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an *s*.

EXAMPLES Emilio's father a week's time

15o. To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in *s*, add only the apostrophe.

EXAMPLES the players' goals the Joneses' car

15p. Do not use an apostrophe with possessive personal pronouns.

EXAMPLES **our** jobs **his** schedule

15q. To form the possessive case of some indefinite pronouns, add an apostrophe and an *s*.

EXAMPLES nobody's notebook anyone's breakfast

EXERCISE A Form both the singular possessive and the plural possessive of each of the following items by adding an apostrophe or an apostrophe and an *s* where needed. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Example _____ *book's; books'* 1. book

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| _____ 1. raft | _____ 11. bird |
| _____ 2. monkey | _____ 12. mayor |
| _____ 3. teacher | _____ 13. country |
| _____ 4. Jackson | _____ 14. chair |
| _____ 5. tooth | _____ 15. hand |
| _____ 6. goose | _____ 16. horse |
| _____ 7. student | _____ 17. calf |
| _____ 8. baby | _____ 18. helicopter |
| _____ 9. giraffe | _____ 19. window |
| _____ 10. boat | _____ 20. garage |

EXERCISE B Add apostrophes where necessary in each of the following items. If a sentence is already correct, write *C* to the left of the item number.

Example 1. Someone's bicycle will do as well as yours.

21. Nobodys test score was perfect.
22. Although his story was well written, hers was better.
23. Somebodys shoes were left in the rain.
24. Ms. Spencer was impressed by everybodys enthusiasm.
25. No ones skills will be able to replace hers.

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Apostrophes D

15r. To form a contraction, use an apostrophe to show where letters or numerals have been omitted.

EXAMPLES	I am	I'm	is not	isn't
	he will	he'll	of the clock	o'clock
	do not	don't	1999	'99

Do not confuse contractions with possessive pronouns.

CONTRACTIONS	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS
Who's coming with us?	Whose jacket is this?
It's your turn.	The dog buried its bone.

EXERCISE A Rewrite each of the following groups of words as a contraction.

Example 1. she will _____ *she'll*

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. should not _____ | 6. she had _____ |
| 2. he is _____ | 7. were not _____ |
| 3. will not _____ | 8. I have _____ |
| 4. they are _____ | 9. who is _____ |
| 5. it is _____ | 10. you are _____ |

EXERCISE B Study the underlined word in each sentence below. If the word is incorrect, cross it out and write the correct form above it. If the word is already correct, write C above it.

Example 1. The prize is rightfully ^{theirs}~~there's~~.

11. Joel is not sure who's hat that is.
12. Was it your grandmother who knit your sweater?
13. Theirs the diner I was telling you about.
14. Who's in charge of the dues?
15. I fed the stray cat, but I didn't know it's name.
16. He was wondering whether your his friend or not.
17. The best entry in the contest was theirs.
18. Look outside to see whether its raining.
19. Was it they're dog that was missing?
20. They're not going to the dance on Saturday.

Apostrophes E

15s. Use an apostrophe and an s to form the plurals of letters, numerals, and symbols, and of words referred to as words.

EXAMPLES The word has two *r*'s in it.
 Enrico's *T*'s looked like 7's.
 Rap music became popular in the 1980's.
 Sharon uses too many *and*'s to join ideas in her writing.

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, add apostrophes where they are needed. Place each apostrophe in an upside-down caret mark to show exactly where the apostrophe should be.

Example 1. There are three *Sam*'s in my class.

- When *&*s appear in company names, you should write *&*s instead of *ands*.
- When you are proofreading, look for all the *verys*, *nices*, and *goods*, and try to replace them.
- The 1940s was an era of big bands and dance music.
- He said that only 7s and 5s were in his telephone number.
- I always think there are two *cs* in *vacuum*, but there is only one.
- Does the child know his *ABC*s yet?
- The teacher told them to mind their *ps* and *qs*.
- Do many newspaper writers begin sentences with *Ors* and *Buts*?
- The young child confused his *ss* and *zs*.
- He adds extra loops to the tops and bottoms of his 3s.
- Sitcoms were very popular on television during the 1950s.
- Mr. Ramirez asked the student to stop giving him *maybes*.
- Cancelled* can be spelled with two *ls* or one.
- He sometimes uses *+s* when he should be writing *ands*.
- Look for *sos* in your writing, and ask yourself whether you should be writing *therefores* or other words instead.
- Television miniseries became popular during the 1970s.
- Can you count to 100 by 2s?
- Many compromises were made between the North and the South during the 1840s and 1850s.
- Young children sometimes confuse *6s* and *9s*.
- Always cross your *ts* and dot your *is*.

Apostrophes F

- 15n.** To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.
- 15o.** To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.
- 15p.** Do not use an apostrophe with possessive personal pronouns.
- 15q.** To form the possessive case of some indefinite pronouns, add an apostrophe and an s.
- 15r.** To form a contraction, use an apostrophe to show where letters or numerals have been omitted.
- 15s.** Use an apostrophe and an s to form the plurals of letters, numerals, and symbols, and of words referred to as words.

EXERCISE Rewrite each of the following sentences, inserting apostrophes where necessary.

Example 1. Katys father said its a good day to travel. Katy's father said it's a good day to travel.

1. Whos going to rescue that little girls kitten? _____

2. Didnt Sam say that you must be ready to go on a moments notice? _____

3. Last months meeting didnt go as well as wed planned. _____

4. Both cars tires should be replaced. Im surprised that neither of the cars has had a blowout yet.

5. Whose books are these? Arent these books theirs? _____

6. More often than not, the teachers lounge is a place for working, not for lounging. _____

7. "Dont worry. The schools computer lab isnt in danger of losing its funding," he said. _____

8. The cars visor helps protect the dashboard from the suns heat. _____

9. The dentist exclaimed, "Your teeths enamel isnt indestructible!" _____

10. The boys box of markers wasnt on the table where theyd left it. _____
