

Apostrophes

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Ask yourself these questions when using an apostrophe to show

POSSESSION:

1. Does the noun express ownership of something?

- a. If no, then you will not need an apostrophe in this instance.
- b. If yes, then you will need an apostrophe, go to question #2.

2. Is the noun singular (referring to only one thing) or plural (referring to more than one thing)?

- a. If the noun is singular, use an apostrophe + s (ex: 's)

Examples include:

*The man's suit

*My boss's order

*The dog's dish

*Our campus's parking problem

- b. If the noun is plural, go to question #3.

3. What kind of plural noun is your noun?

- a. If you can make the noun plural by adding "s", only add an apostrophe.

Examples include:

*The kids' clubhouse

*Our friends' meeting

b. If you do not make the noun plural by adding “s”, add an apostrophe + s (ex: ‘s)

Examples include:

*The women’s jobs

*The children’s party



Possessive pronouns (its, his, hers, and theirs) do not need apostrophes.

its = belong to it

The house showed **its** age.

hers = belonging to her

I think that pen is **hers**.

his = belonging to him

He found **his** keys.

theirs= = belonging to them

I think these books are **theirs**.

CONTRACTIONS:

When using apostrophes to indicate contractions, the apostrophe is used to replace the letters that are being taken out.

Examples:

it's = it is

It's a matter of choice

she's = she is

She's a good friend.

wouldn't = would not

I **wouldn't** do that.

let's = let us

Let's go to dinner.

can't = can not

We **can't** go to the show.

couldn't = could not

They **couldn't** understand.

could've = could have

That **could've** been me.

doesn't = does not

He **doesn't** like onions.