

The Apostrophe

1. Apostrophes are used to for contractions. The apostrophe replaces the omitted letter or letters.

it is	it's	cannot	can't
I am	I'm	were not	weren't
they are	they're	is not	isn't
you are	you're	does not	doesn't

2. Apostrophes are used to form the possessives of nouns and indefinite pronouns.

- a. Add 's to form the possessive of most nouns and all indefinite pronouns.

EXAMPLES

(singular nouns) The **girl's** hair was shiny.

(indefinite pronouns) **Everyone's** watch was affected by the giant magnet.

(plural nouns that do not end in *s*) During the storm the parents were concerned about their **children's** safety.

(compound words) Mr. Giuliano left on Monday to attend his **son-in-law's** graduation.

(joint possession) **Vladimir and Natasha's** wedding was long and elaborate.

- b. Add only an apostrophe to form the possessive of words that already end in *s*.

EXAMPLES:

(plural nouns that end in *s*) The **Joneses'** cabin had been visited by an untidy bear.

(singular nouns that end in *s*) **Charles'** sense of humor never abandoned him.

- c. Expressions referring to time or money often require an apostrophe.

EXAMPLES:

Please give me one **dollar's** worth.

Two **weeks'** vacation is simply not enough.

3. Do not use apostrophes with the possessive forms of personal pronouns.

Incorrect Correct

her's	hers
our's	ours
their's	theirs

NOTE: *It's* means "it is." The possessive form is *its*.

Practice Add apostrophes to the following sentences where necessary. The first sentence is done for you.

1. I wonder where Frederica 's mother is; she doesn ' t answer her phone.
2. Are those James car keys on the coffee table?
3. Did you like Ben Kingsleys acting in the movie about Gandhi?
4. The policeman was awarded an extra months salary for bravery in the line of duty.
5. Larrys bumper stickler isnt funny.
6. It's a wonder that my cat can find its way home.
7. Im sure that youre invited to the after-game party too.
8. My sister-in-laws father was given a years salary when he left his company.
9. Somebodys car alarm went off in the middle of the night.
10. The five travelers luggage was lost somewhere in Indiana.