

Apostrophes

Apostrophes show possession:

1. For a word that does not end in *-s*, add an *apostrophe s (-'s)*.

Ex. The dog's bowl is red.

2. For a singular word that ends in *-s*, add only an *apostrophe*.

Ex. The business' employees are invited to a picnic.

3. For a plural word that ends in *-s*, add only an *apostrophe*.

Ex. The trees' leaves have all fallen.

Ex. The Johnsons' new puppy is adorable.

4. For a plural word that does not end in *-s*, add an *apostrophe s (-'s)*.

Ex. The women's volleyball team beat the men's team, and the men's team beat the children's team.

Ex. The deer's antlers were quite large.

5. For compound words, add an *apostrophe s (-'s)*.

Ex. The save-the-date's font was tasteful and pretty.

6. For joint possessions, add an *apostrophe s (-'s)* to only the last noun.

Ex. Lisa and Dave's wedding was beautiful.

Apostrophes show omission:

1. Shows that letters are left out of words.

- a. Contractions:

- ◆ Can't (cannot)
- ◆ He's (He is)
- ◆ Shan't (shall not)
- ◆ Who's (who is)

2. Dates: '90 for 1990

Apostrophes form certain plurals:

1. The only time you would use an apostrophe to form a plural would be in the case of lowercase letters.
 - ◆ “Dot your i’s and cross your t’s.”
 - ◆ “Mind your p’s and q’s.”
2. You would NOT use an apostrophe in the case of numbers, plural words, uppercase letters, symbols, or years.
 - ◆
 - ◆ Numbers: 2s, not 2’s
 - ◆ Plural Words: books, not book’s
 - ◆ Uppercase Letters: GMOs, not GMO’s
 - ◆ Symbols: +s and -s, not +’s and -’s.
 - ◆ Years: 1980s, not 1980’s.

Misuse of Apostrophes:

1. Do not use an apostrophe to form the plural for other words.

Ex. The dogs are cute. (Not the dog’)

2. Do not use an apostrophe for possessive pronouns.

Ex. His car is parked. (Not his’ car)

Ex. Whose car is parked in my spot? (Not who’s)

Ex. Its tires are low on air. (Not it’s, which is a contraction. You wouldn’t say it is tires are now on air.)