

Apostrophes



Contractions - When Words are Shortened

Apostrophes are used to replace letters missed out when words are shortened

for example:

Where is the dog? = Where's the dog?

I am afraid = I'm afraid

He was not pleased = He wasn't pleased

Is it a contraction?



USE

AN APOSTROPHE

A contraction is when you omit a few letters. For example:

I (**cannot** ➔ **can't**) believe you fit that entire watermelon in your mouth!

I (**do not** ➔ **don't**) like putting honeybees in my underpants.

I (**would not** ➔ **wouldn't**) recommend scuba diving inside a volcano.

List as many contractions as you can
think of!





Match the contractions to the long forms



- Can't
- We have
- Simon's
- Mustn't
- Have not
- Isn't
- Daren't
- Will not
- I've

- Is not
- We've
- Cannot
- Simon is
- Haven't
- Dare not
- Won't
- I have
- Must not

Write out the following, using an apostrophe to shorten the two words underlined, into one word

1. If it were not for the optimist, the pessimist would not know how happy he was not.
2. Wife to husband: I did not say there were not two sides to every story - I just said that I was not listening to your side
3. 'If you will give me your phone number, young lady, I will call you up sometime.'
'It is in the book.'
'Fine! And what is your name?'
'That is in the book, too.'

Write out the following, using an apostrophe to shorten the two words underlined, into one word

4. 'Men, fire at will!'

'Sir,' a soldier shouted, 'we have been firing for an hour and run out of ammunition!'

'We must not let the enemy know that,' roared the officer. 'Keep firing!'

5. In an optician's shop window: 'If you do not see what you want, you have come to the right place.'

6. A man was examining the household accounts kept by his wife.

'Well, my dear,' he said, 'you will be interested to know that we have now come to the bridge which we said we would cross when we came to it.'

Write out the following, putting in all the missing apostrophes

1. 'Doctor, I need a something for my kidneys!'
'OK. Heres some bacon.'
2. 'Why do you have a carrot sticking out of your ear?'
'I cant hear you. Ive got a carrot sticking out of my ear.'
3. I know Im not much, but Im all Ive got.
4. You cant expect a boy to be vicious till hes been to a good school.
5. First cannibal: 'I dont think much of your husband.'
Second cannibal: 'That's all right. Eat the vegetables instead.'

Write out the following, putting in all the missing apostrophes

6. 'Our caretakers eighty years old and hes not got a grey hair on his head.'

'Whys that?'

'Hes bald!'

7. 'Why are you searching the beach?'

'For a piece of toffee,' said the husband.

'Don't lets waste time doing that.'

'Well have to,' he said, 'my false teeth are stuck to it.'

IT'S is different!

Are you trying to say “it is?”

(or “it has”)



USE

AN APOSTROPHE

For Example:

It's (it is) unusual to put crickets in your coffee, but I do it anyway.

It's (it has) been a fun day. We should go to the velociraptor petting zoo more often!

Any other time you use `its', DON'T use an apostrophe

For example:

That's its house.

Its hat is odd.

Complete the sentences.



1. The dog wagged _____ tail.
2. _____ half past ten already.
3. The government has changed _____ education policy.
4. The elephant lifted _____ trunk.
5. “_____” all your fault!” cried Jessica
6. _____ going to snow tomorrow.
7. The train went through Newcastle on _____ way to Manchester.
8. _____ penetrating eyes watched every move I made



Peer assess! Swap books and give a mark out of 8!

Write out the sentences and add apostrophes where needed

- Its going to be a nice day.
- I think its nearly finished.
- The lorry spilled its load on the road.
- Life has its ups and downs.
- Its been raining all morning.
- I don't know whether its arrived yet.

Is it indicating possession?



USE

AN APOSTROPHE

Possession means to own something.

For Example: **Bob's** hat was made out of jelly beans.

But Watch Out



Is it plural **and** possessive? For Example:

The **soldiers'** rifles were no match for Bob's amazing lightning pants.

Then put the apostrophe **after** the "s."



Unless

It's a word that's already plural, such as "children," then you'd write "children's."



Let's break it down...

Ask yourself:

Is this a **plural word**, e.g. does the 's' mean that there's more than one?

In this case, **DON'T USE AN APORSTROPHE**,
for example: monkeys, footballs chocolates

OR

Does the 's' **show possession**, e.g. that something belongs to someone or something?

In this case, put an **APOSTROPHE BEFORE THE 'S'**, for example: Hadrian's wall, Jim's car, the old folk's home

Write out the following sentences, putting an apostrophe



before the 's' if it indicates possession



1. We took Mrs Browns dog to the vet this morning.
2. My brothers girlfriend is very shy.
3. All the childrens parents were delighted at the news.
4. There were enough cakes and sandwiches for everyone.
5. I popped down to the shops.

Write out the following sentences, putting an apostrophe before the 's' if it indicates possession

6. The doctors stethoscope was on the table.
7. We sat in Johns garden.
8. These are Daniels gobstoppers.
9. Wayne Rooneys goals are always brilliant.
10. I sat in the teachers chair.

And here's a mix of everything we've done so far!

1. My best friends sister is called Jodie.
2. I haven't done my homework.
3. Mrs Dargues English lessons are the best.
4. If they go down to the shops they'll miss the start of the football.
5. Frank Lampards goal this weekend was brilliant!
6. There werent any eggs left after Jamie dropped the box.
7. "Youre my best friend!" said Hasib.
8. Michelle shouldve have caught the half-past-eight bus, but she missed it

BUT

...if it's plural AND possessive, or the owner's name already ends in an 's', then the apostrophe goes **AFTER** the 's'

For example:

The students' classroom

The actors' trailer

Lewis' game

Is it a possessive name ending in “s?”

For Example:

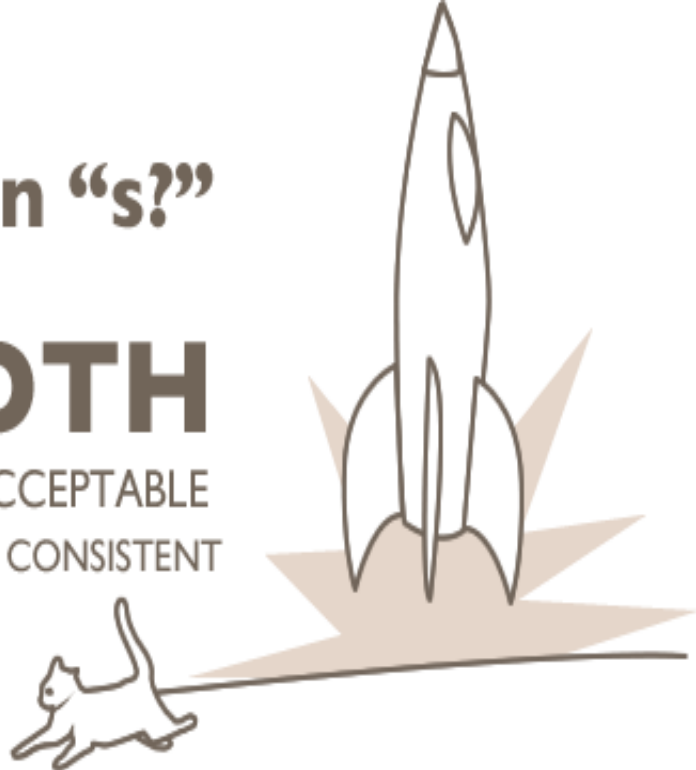
Charles’s rocketship allowed him to have lunch on the moon.

Charles’ cat is always terrified during liftoff.



BOTH

ARE ACCEPTABLE
JUST BE CONSISTENT



Is it a possessive and plural name?



STICK IT

AFTER THE “S”

For Example: The Johnsons’ moonwich recipe was very famous.

In this case, you’re referring to the entire Johnson family.

Copy out the following, adding apostrophes where needed

1. Todays special: burger and chips.
2. Policemens uniforms are being updated.
3. Here is the ladies cloakroom.
4. My parents house has been sold.
5. The business name is changing.
6. I think I will have pie and peas.
7. Mr Jones secretary is leaving.

8. They've gone off to Rome for a fortnights holiday.
9. They said they'd see us in two weeks time.
10. We took Mrs Browns dog to the vets this morning.
11. Heres the ladies cloakroom, and the mens is over there
12. Theres a storm coming. Wed better take shelter.
13. "It wasn't her fault!" I shouted. "She couldn't help it."
14. Have you met the Smiths? Theyre from York.
15. Dimitris mother doesn't approve of the way I dress.
16. That's not my sons coat! Wheres James jacket?
17. " I think well paint the childrens bedroom first," she said.