



The Apostrophe

WHAT IS AN APOSTROPHE

An apostrophe (') is used to show that a noun is possessive, meaning that noun has ownership over something. An apostrophe is also used to indicate omissions in contractions and numbers.

- Example: **Tim's** dog **can't** swim.

POSSESSION

WHEN TO ADD -'S

- 1.If the noun doesn't end in -s add -'s
a.Example: Katie borrowed **Sarah's** book, but then she lost it.
- 2.If the noun is singular and ends in -s or an s sound, add -'s to show possession.
a.Example: Those students are in **Ms. Harris's** class.

WHEN TO ADD ONLY AN APOSTROPHE

- 1.If the noun is plural and ends in -s, add only an apostrophe
a.Example: The **students'** papers were very interesting to read.

JOINT POSSESSION

- 1.To show joint possession, you only need an apostrophe with the last noun.
a.Example: Have you seen Carol and **Frank's** new car?

COMPOUND NOUNS

- 1.If the noun is compound, use -'s with the last element.
a.Example: My **father-in-law's** Christmas gift is running late.



INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

- 1.Indefinite pronouns do not refer to anyone or anything specifically, so apostrophe use is subjective.
a.Example: **Someone's** laptop has been left in class.

OMISSIONS

CONTRACTIONS

- 1.Apostrophes mark missing letters or numbers in contractions.
a.It's terrible that Alice **can't** come to Harper's party.
b.The ten year reunion for the class of **'12** will be this year.