

Apostrophe

Apostrophes have three main uses:

1. To indicate possession
2. To indicate an omission of letters or numbers
3. To separate the *s* from plural letters/numbers and abbreviations followed by periods.

Apostrophes are always used with possessive nouns.

Singular nouns are followed by an 's

Chris's poem
boy's room
director's desk

Plural nouns which end in "s" are followed by an apostrophe

girls' shoes
Jones' house
dancers' dressing room

Plural nouns which do not end in "s" are followed by an 's

children's school
mice's maze
women's group

Do not use apostrophes with possessive pronouns (my, your, their, her, its, yours, theirs, ours, hers, his, etc.)

their room
our home
its paw

Contractions always require apostrophes to indicate the omission of letters.

it is = it's
was not = wasn't
he is = he's
1999 = '99

Apostrophes are used to separate the *s* from plural letters/numbers and abbreviations followed by a title

She made three A's
My phone number has four 2's
One of the Ph.D.'s came forward first in the commencement.

Apostrophes Practice

Add apostrophes where appropriate in the following sentences. Some of the sentences are correct. If no apostrophes are needed, mark the sentence "correct".

1. The kitten slept on the childs bed.
2. The Smiths children were all good singers.
3. He made three As for the semester.
4. Shell start college next semester.
5. Shes determined to make all As.
6. The mother picked up the childrens toys
7. The girls wanted to play basketball.
8. Theres no substitute for good preparation.
9. Theyre wondering if the boys car is in his driveway.
10. His testimony was that he hadnt been there since the summer of 89.
11. Shes willing to go, but theyve already left.
12. All of the students parents would be arriving throughout the day.
13. One of the M.D.s got into a debate with one of the Ph.D.s.
14. The boys finished their homework early so that they could watch the game.
15. She found the street, but couldnt remember if the address had two 3s or three 2s.
16. You could hear the mices squeaks from the condemned kitchen.
17. I would have borrowed Janes book, but hers was an older version.
18. The womens restroom is to the right.
19. Tom and Bill have both said theyll be there.
20. Im not going unless youre coming.
21. Its getting late, and I havent finished my homework yet.
22. She mistakenly thought Joans book was hers.
23. Johns novel is based on his parents experience of immigrating to the United States.
24. Theyre eager to go ahead and announce their decision.
25. The childrens room was painted in bright reds, yellows, and blues.