

# Apostrophe Workshop Notes



Apostrophes are used in contractions where the letters have been left out.

- Do not/don't
- Is not/isn't
- You have/you've
- She would/she'd

An apostrophe also shows possession.

- **Singular possessive nouns**
  - o One woman's hat
  - o Ms. Chang's house
    - o Driver's side
- **Plural possessive nouns**
  - o Children's money
  - o Diplomats' cars
- **Joint possession**
  - o Joyce and Greg's computer

## Notes:

In words like Lois that end in **s**, writers may choose to use an apostrophe and an **s** when making these words possessive,

- Lois's

or they may choose to just add an apostrophe without the second **s**.

- Lois'

Plural possessives that do not end in **s**, add apostrophe **s**, like

- *the children's ball.*

Plural possessives that do end in **s**, add just the apostrophe.

- *the diplomats' cars*

## NOT Possessive Nouns

- Do not use an apostrophe with nouns that are not possessive.

- The teachers have claimed...
- (not teacher's or teachers')
- The Joneses did not attend.
- (not Jones' or Jones's)

- Do not use an apostrophe with possessive pronouns:

They already show possession. For example: his, hers, its, theirs, ours, yours, whose

- **A Special Case:**

The most common apostrophe error

- The only time an apostrophe is used with **its** is when it is the contraction for *it is*.
- *-It's a nice day.*

- Its indicated ownership.

- *-The dog chased its tail.*

- **Interesting notes:**

- With singular compound nouns, the 's goes at the end of the word.
- *-my sister-in law's quilts*

- **Omit the apostrophe when writing plural numbers, and abbreviations.**

- -figure 8s,
- -the 1900s
- -four IOUs,

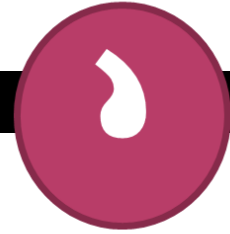
- **Practice Apostrophes:** Add or omit apostrophes as necessary:

1. The motorcycle is the students.
2. I saw you're cousins at Nicks.

- **Take a Quiz**

- Click on Apostrophe Quiz link on <http://rwrc.wikispaces.com/Apostrophes> site or go to
- [http://www.grammarbook.com/grammar\\_quiz/apostrophes\\_1.asp](http://www.grammarbook.com/grammar_quiz/apostrophes_1.asp)

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- Do not/don't
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An apostrophe also shows \_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **possessive nouns**
  - o One woman's hat
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- \_\_\_\_\_ **possessive nouns**
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- \_\_\_\_\_ **possession**
  - o Joyce and Greg's computer

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or they may choose to just add an apostrophe \_\_\_\_\_ the second **s**.

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Plural possessives that \_\_\_\_\_ end in **s**, add \_\_\_\_\_ the apostrophe.

- *the diplomats' cars*

## NOT Possessive Nouns

- Do \_\_\_\_\_ use an apostrophe with nouns that are \_\_\_\_\_ possessive.

- o The teachers have claimed...
- o (not teacher's or teachers')
- o The Joneses did not attend.
- o (not Jones' or Jones's)

- Do\_\_\_\_\_use an apostrophe with\_\_\_\_\_pronouns:

They already show possession.\_\_\_\_\_: his, hers, its, theirs, ours, yours, whose

- **A Special Case:**

The most common apostrophe error

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