

APOSTROPHE WORKSHOP

APOSTROPHE GUIDELINES

- 1. Apostrophes are used to show omission of letters in a contraction or numbers in a date.**
- 2. Apostrophes are used to form plurals of words, letters, or numerals used as words.**

EX:
How many e's are in the name Jeffery. She uses too many and's when she is speaking.

In the number 55,785,456 there are four 5's.
- 3. The apostrophe shows possession in singular nouns by adding 's to nouns not ending with an s.**

EX:
Mary's the dog's the Smith's
- 4. In singular possessive nouns ending in s, a writer could merely add ' , or if the extra syllable is comfortably pronounced, the writer could add 's.**

EX:
Ulysses' return the boss' office the boss's office
- 5. Add an ' to plural possessive nouns that form their plural by adding s.**

EX:
three boys' room the soldiers' quarters
- 6. Add 's to plural possessive nouns that form their plural in irregular ways not ending in s.**

EX:
the women's shoes the children's room the men's section
- 7. POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS NEVER USE APOSTROPHES!**

EX:
ours yours theirs hers its

Remember that PERSONAL POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS (such as yours, ours, his, hers, theirs, its, whose) are possessive in form and DO NOT NEED APOSTROPHES.

Other uses of apostrophes include use with CONTRACTIONS (it's, don't, would've, who's) and use with plural letters and numbers.

EXERCISE

Add apostrophes where necessary or write in the blank the correct form of the word in parenthesis. Remember, position is important.

1. I put the _____ appointment book in the top drawer. (doctor)
2. The _____ dressing room is down the hall. (women)
3. The girls team generally performed well during the tournament.
4. I have completed my exercise. Have you done yours?
5. Everyone likes Gladys new hair style.
6. The v s in that sign look like u s, don't you think?
7. The many ya know s she uses in her language are very annoying.
8. The 1960s was an era of discontent and reform.
9. The Smiths have bought a new car.
10. Agnes story gets better every time she tells it.
11. That mans watch is the most beautiful watch Ive ever seen.
12. The _____ wives have organized a support group. (students)
13. My oldest sisters children all behave themselves very well.
14. Their roast cooked really well. Im not sure what happened to ours.
15. That _____ hobby was collecting tiny spoons. (girl)
16. That ladys hats ranged from the outlandish to the downright ridiculous.
17. The mens shoes sold between \$50 and \$75 a pair.
18. The _____ telephones didnt stop ringing. (secretaries)
19. Baking homemade goodies was my mothers specialty.
20. The United States constitution guarantees us freedom of speech.
21. The Americas have joined a common trade agreement.
22. My high schools alumni meet for regular reunions.
23. Our 82 Hondas engine still runs well.
24. Many young children reverse their b s and their d s.
25. Did you see the children? _____ on their way home. (contraction of they are)

EXERCISE

Indicate the correct possessive form.

26. The (a. childrens, b. childrens', c. children's) toys were strewn all over their grandmother's floor.
27. Father asked, "(a. Whose, b. Who's, c. Whose's) bike is in the driveway?"
28. The (a. Johnson's, b. Johnsons', c. Johnsons) summer home was destroyed in the hurricane.
29. (a. Its, b. It's, c. Its') a shame that the number called was not ours.
30. He kept his job but was docked two (a. weeks, b. week's, c. weeks') pay.
31. (A. Susan and Jana's, b. Susan's and Jana's, c. Susans and Janas) children attend the same preschool.
32. The (a. Martins, b. Martin's, c. Martins') are moving to Florida.