Apostrophes

**15n.** To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.

**EXAMPLES**
- the sun's rays
- James's scooter
- the city's mayor

**15o.** To form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.

**EXAMPLES**
- people's votes
- men's shirts
- the children's toys

**15p.** To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.

**EXAMPLES**
- the classes' election
- the Petersens' snowmobile

**Exercise A**
Above each underlined noun, write the correct possessive form.

**Example 1.** four weeks' supply

1. three doctors' opinions
2. Mrs. King's business
3. Chris's bicycle
4. the mice's favorite hiding place
5. in ten years' time
6. the women's locker room
7. the team's beloved mascot
8. New Orleans' jazz scene
9. two sisters' secret
10. the Wilsons' house

**Exercise B**
In each sentence, underline the word that should be in the possessive case. Above the word, write its correct possessive form.

**Example 1.** The five winners' photographs are on page one of the newsletter.

11. The Mount Vernon Chorus sang Jason's favorite songs.
12. One student brother had a minor accident in that big blue car.
13. The Garcias' new neighbor is Sandra Johnson.
14. The banjo with broken strings is Jennifer.
15. Carlotta's voice was hoarse from cheering for the volleyball team.
16. The raindrops patter could be heard on the tin roof.
17. We brought a day supply of granola bars, water, and sandwiches.
18. The photographer won an award for that picture of the wolves' den.
19. Do you know Carlos' e-mail address?
20. This weekend's homework is written on the chalkboard.
Apostrophes B

**15q.** Do not use an apostrophe with possessive personal pronouns.

**EXAMPLES**  The red car is theirs.  Whose car is that?

**15r.** To form the possessive case of some indefinite pronouns, add an apostrophe and an s.

**EXAMPLES**  somebody’s notes  everyone’s idea

---

**EXERCISE A**  Above each pronoun, write the correct possessive form. If a pronoun is already correct, write C.

**Examples**  1. somebody lost puppy  2. its new paint

1. anyone guess  6. someone science book
2. everybody friend  7. anybody opportunity
3. her money  8. The car is theirs.
4. your skates  9. no one first choice
5. neither basketball  10. Those books are yours.

---

**EXERCISE B**  In the following paragraph, underline each possessive personal pronoun and each indefinite pronoun. Then, above each indefinite pronoun, write the correct possessive form.

**Example**  [1] Someone’s trash is another person’s treasure, in my opinion.

[11] Everybody unwanted items can bring in a few coins at a garage sale.  [12] When my family organized our garage sale, everybody attention was devoted to the project.  [13] One night, someone dreams even focused on our garage sale!  [14] We spent several days writing down anyone ideas.  [15] We finally decided to make a list of everyone items for sale.  [16] Soon, a friendly disagreement occurred when two different people thought the iron was theirs.  [17] Dad claimed it was his, but Tanya was sure it was hers.  [18] In the end, of course, no one possessions made him or her rich.  [19] We set out everybody items together during the garage sale and then equally divided the profit.  [20] We were all quite happy with our success.
Apostrophes C

15n. To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.

15o. To form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.

15p. To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.

EXAMPLES  dog’s bark  the oxen’s food  four brothers’ band

EXERCISE   In each of the following sentences, underline the noun that needs an apostrophe or an apostrophe and an s. Then, above the underlined word, write the correct possessive form.

Example 1. Which of Grimm fairy tales should I read tonight?

1. Jacob Grimm was Wilhelm older brother.

2. Only thirteen months time separated their births in 1785 and 1786.

3. The brothers enjoyed storytellers tales.

4. At that time, storytellers held audiences attention by telling stories aloud.

5. The brothers goal was to write down these stories.

6. They carefully recorded the folk tales content.

7. The Grimms notes for their work have been studied by other storytellers.

8. Each written story words were very close to the original, spoken version.

9. Have you read the story of Rapunzel long hair?

10. Do you know about Snow White friends, the seven dwarfs?

11. One of my sister favorites is the story of Hansel and Gretel.

12. She particularly enjoys hearing about the old woman cottage.

13. The cottages walls were made of gingerbread.

14. Many people favorite story is the tale of Cinderella.

15. Other stories appeal lies in their funny and fantastic scenes.

16. For example, consider Rumpelstiltskin promise to turn straw into gold.

17. Tom Thumb tiny size makes him another interesting character.

18. Some readers favorite stories are those that resemble their own lives.

19. A reader favorite story may present life as he or she wishes it were.

20. These fairy tales are certainly a beloved part of children literature.
Apostrophes D

15. Use an apostrophe to show where letters, words, or numerals have been omitted (left out) in a contraction.

The word not can be shortened to n’t and added to a verb, usually without any change in the spelling of the verb.

**Examples**
- I am—’m
- of the clock—’clock
- 1998—’98
- do not—don’t
- she would—she’d

**Exercise A** On the lines provided, write the contraction for each set of words.

Example 1. should not

1. where is
2. we are
3. they will
4. has not
5. she is
6. could not
7. you will
8. does not
9. might have
10. they are

**Exercise B** The following sentences have errors in the use of apostrophes in contractions. An apostrophe may be missing or in the wrong place. Underline each error. Then, above the error, write the contraction correctly.

**Example 1.** They’ve been reading quietly in their room.

11. There’s a hobby you may find interesting.
12. It’s called in-line skating.
13. Why have’nt I heard about it?
14. Here is a magazine article from October ’99.
15. You’ll have to finish reading it this afternoon.
16. I promised to meet Jessie tomorrow morning at eight o’clock and lend it to her.
17. Let’s all go in-line skating this weekend!
18. I know we do’nt have skates yet.
19. Ben and Phoebe said they’re not using theirs and will lend them to us.
20. I think well find in-line skating difficult but fun.
Apostrophes

**Exercise A**  Above each underlined item in the following sentences, write the item in its plural form.

**Example 1.** Did you get any A’s on your progress report?

1. Count the yes and the no.
2. How many n and e are in the word Tennessee?
3. My telephone number has two 2 and two 8.
5. There are too many or and but in that paragraph.
6. Be sure to write clearly, so people can tell your m and n apart.
7. The l in the word parallel are parallel to each other.
8. Don’t forget to use double s and p in the word Mississippi.
9. All the 4, 5, and 6 are blurred.
10. The why and wherefore will be covered later.

**Exercise B**  The following letter contains errors in apostrophes in plurals. Insert apostrophes where they are needed, and draw a line through the apostrophes that are not needed.

**Example 1** Your capital Y’s look like lowercase r’s in these note/s to Juan.

Dear Juan,

[11] I’m writing to tell you why 7s are lucky! [12] One of the nearby theaters’ had a contest.

[13] How many bean’s were in the jar? [14] It’s hard to tell by looking, but I decided to try—no ifs, ands, or buts about it. [15] My guess was 7,777, which is a lot of 7s. [16] Of all the guesses’ submitted, mine won! [17] The prize was, as you might guess, seven movie ticket’s. [18] Are you free to go to the movies’ with me? [19] Get ready for more 7s’: The first movie is on July 7 at 7:00 p.m.

[20] Maybe next time 9s will be lucky, and I’ll win nine ticket’s!

Your friend,

Emily
**Apostrophes**

Review the rules on pages 330–37 of your textbook for information on using apostrophes with singular nouns, plural nouns that do not end in s, plural nouns that do end in s, some indefinite pronouns, contractions, and the plurals of letters, numerals, symbols, and words referred to as words.

**EXAMPLES**

- book’s cover
- someone’s bicycle
- six @’s
- children’s toys
- can’t
- three $’s
- students’ holiday
- several H’s
- too many very’s

**EXERCISE A** For each of the following sentences, add apostrophes where needed. Cross out apostrophes that are not needed.

**Example 1.** Who chooses hurricanes’ names?

1. One person doesn’t choose a hurricane’s name.
2. They’re chosen by scientists’ from all over the world.
3. Who’s idea was it to give hurricanes peoples’ names?
4. Probably its an international groups’ idea.
5. There’s a list of names’ for each coast.
6. As and Bs begin the names of the first hurricane’s of each season.
7. Hurricane Andrew was scientists’ choice of name for a hurricane in 1992.
8. I do’n’t think Id want that hurricane to have the same name as I have.
9. Andrews costly destruction caused many people to see $s in their heads!
10. The damage caused by Andrew cost around fifteen billion dollar’s—there are a lot of $s in that number!

**EXERCISE B** For each of the following sentences, add apostrophes where needed. Cross out apostrophes that are not needed. If a sentence is already correct, write C after the sentence.

**Example 1.** How many e’s are in that girl’s name?

11. The shells’ of these pecan’s are hard to crack.
12. They’ll be pleased that you accepted their invitation.
13. I dont usually care for soup, but Theresas chicken soup is irresistible!
14. If you don’t use an apostrophe when referring to several as, the word looks like as.
15. In her class notes, Norma writes &s instead of ands.