

Apostrophes

- Apostrophes are used with nouns to show possession.
- Apostrophes are used in contractions, words that combine two words into one. An apostrophe is used to show exactly where one or more letters are deleted.

Contractions	Possessive personal pronouns
it's	its
you're	your
they're	their

- To avoid incorrectly using an apostrophe in some possessive pronouns (*its, your, their*), plug in both words that would make up the contraction (*it is* for *it's*, *you are* for *you're*, and *they are* for *they're*). If the sentence makes sense, use the contraction; if it doesn't make sense, use the possessive pronoun without an apostrophe.
- Add only an apostrophe to form the possessive of a plural noun that ends in the letter *s*.
- Add an apostrophe and the letter *s* ('*s*) to form the possessive of most singular nouns. Write the singular noun without adding or omitting any letter. Then add the apostrophe and *s*.
- To show joint ownership or possession, add an apostrophe and the letter *s* only to the last noun.