



# Apostrophes

An apostrophe is used:

- To show that a word has been made shorter.  
Eg: Rachel **can't** come today - short for Rachel **cannot** come today.

OR

- To show you that someone owns something.  
Eg: This is **Mohammed's** car - the car belonging to Mohammed.

**Let's first look at apostrophes used to make words shorter. Work out what these words are short for. The first one is done for you.**

1 You'll be really late.      You will be really late.

2 I'm starving.      \_\_\_\_\_

3 It's time to get up.      \_\_\_\_\_

4 Who's coming today?      \_\_\_\_\_

5 He didn't like her.      \_\_\_\_\_

6 She wasn't rich.      \_\_\_\_\_

7 He's very handsome      \_\_\_\_\_



## Apostrophes 2

---

**Practise using apostrophes to make words shorter by putting the apostrophes back into these sentences:**

- 1 Theres a class on Wednesday at college.
- 2 Its a Writing class.
- 3 Therell be a lot of people there.
- 4 Dean cant come because hes working.
- 5 Monica isnt coming either.
- 6 Christine and Khalid say theyre coming.
- 7 Mohammed wont be on time, but hes done his homework.
- 8 Everyone else will be there and well have a great lesson.
- 9 Rachel will cycle back home and shell eat her dinner.
- 10 Itll be ten thirty by the time shes finished.
- 11 Theres a great programme on TV at eleven which shes going to watch.



## Apostrophes 3

---

If a person or animal or thing owns something, we use 's to show it belongs to them.

eg: It is Khalid's house.

It is Ravi's homework.

**Put the apostrophes into these sentences. Remember not to put one in if it is just a plural; only when something belongs to someone.**

- 1 Tony's CV is almost finished.
- 2 We all had tea in Jos kitchen.
- 3 This is Denise's pen.
- 4 Anne's garden is beautiful.
- 5 My friend's car goes very fast.
- 6 That is the cat's toy.
- 7 They are my mum's flowers.
- 8 We read someone's language history last week.



## Apostrophes 4

---

If more than one person or animal or thing owns something, put the apostrophe **after the s**.

eg: The boys' clothes were dirty. (More than one boy)

The students' exams were hard. (More than one student)

**Put the apostrophes back into these sentences.**

**Remember, you put the apostrophe to show ownership but not when there's just a plural.**

- 1 All the houses windows are filthy. (More than one house)
- 2 Both cars windows are smashed in. (More than one car)
- 3 All the books pictures are childish. (More than one book)
- 4 The workers pay was cut. (More than one worker)
- 5 The bikes wheels had been stolen. (More than one bike)
- 6 The dogs tails had been chopped off. (More than one dog)
- 7 The animals conditions were awful. (More than one animal)
- 8 The rooms carpets needed cleaning. (More than one room)



## Apostrophes 5

---

When a word is plural, **but doesn't end in s**, we put 's after the word to show ownership. .

eg: The children's toys were brilliant fun. (More than one child)  
The men's jobs were exciting. (More than one man)

**Put the apostrophes back into these sentences.**

**Remember, you put the apostrophe to show ownership but not when there's just a plural.**

- 1 Womens history is very interesting. (More than one woman)
- 2 The mens haircuts were lovely. (More than one man)
- 3 The childrens school was excellent. (More than one child)
- 4 The mices faces are cute. (More than one mouse)
- 5 The peoples princess was beautiful. (More than one person)
- 6 The mens toilets are clean and sparkling. (More than one man)
- 7 She has some pretty childrens shoes. (More than one child)
- 8 Celebrate peoples different cultures! (More than one person)



## Apostrophes 6

---

Remember, if one person, animal or thing owns something, we put the apostrophe **before the s**. If more than one person, animal or thing owns something, we put the apostrophe **after the s**. But if the owner is more than one but doesn't end in s, the apostrophe comes **before the s**.

Put the apostrophes back into this piece of writing. You will need apostrophes to show shorter words and to show ownership.

The dogs paw was hurt, but were not taking it to the vet because its not that bad. Its the childrens pet and theyre a bit upset. Theyve also got 2 cats. The animals names are all boring: Blackie, Spotty and Lady. Ladys got a collar and its sparkly. Blackie likes to chase mice. The mices holes are all over the kitchen and in the mens toilets.



## Apostrophes 7

---

Put the apostrophes back into this piece of writing. You will need apostrophes to show shorter words and to show ownership. You might find this hard but remember it is to help you learn, it doesn't matter if you don't get them all right!

Hes borrowing his wifes car today because his is broken. His Land-Rovers steering has gone. Both cars MOTs are running out. Both cars are green, but Janes is much newer.

Their children also have cars and motorbikes. The childrens cars are all in better condition, and theyre much more careful drivers. Hes a bit ashamed of the fact that he got caught drink driving. Its a bit of a family secret. Theyve never told anyone outside of the family.

All of the houses in the street are well kept. The houses owners mostly work in the city. Its not surprising that theyre all very rich and the womens clothes are expensive. One mans house is massive, its got sixteen bedrooms and five bathrooms. He drives a firms car.

