

Apostrophes

When should I use apostrophes?

- 1) To form contractions

** A contraction is a shortened form of a word [or group of words] that omits letters and sounds. An apostrophe stands in for those missing letters. **Example:** does not = doesn't

Example—Amy doesn't eat Italian food.

- 2) To indicate possession

- a. For a singular noun, add an apostrophe and "s" to the end of the word.

Example: The boy's dad dropped him off at work.

Even if the singular noun ends in "s," add another "s" after the apostrophe.

Example: Mr. Jones's dog ran away last week.

- b. For most plural nouns, add only an apostrophe to the end of the word.

Example: The mother put away her daughters' toys. [*more than one daughter*].

- c. When the plural noun does not end in "s," add both an apostrophe and "s" to the end.

Example: The women's restroom is crowded.

When should I not use apostrophes?

- 1) Do not use apostrophes to create plural forms of nouns.

Example: The duck's swim in the pond during the summer. ✗
The ducks swim in the pond during the summer.

- 2) Do not use apostrophes at the end of a verb.

Example: Quincy love's eating cheeseburgers. ✗
Quincy loves eating cheeseburgers.