

Writing Guide: **Apostrophe**

Possessives

1. Add **'s** to make the possessive form of any singular noun.

Ex.: **Chris's** notebook fell off the desk.

Ex.: This **year's** election was hotly contested.

2. Add **'s** to make the possessive form of any plural noun that does not end in "s."

Ex.: The **children's** toys lay scattered about the room.

Ex.: Gloria Steinem is synonymous with **women's** rights.

3. Add **'s** to make the possessive form of any indefinite pronoun.

Ex.: That memo is **nobody's** business but mine.

Ex.: **Someone's** cell phone was ringing during the concert.

4. Add **only an apostrophe** to make the possessive form of plural nouns that end in "s."

Ex. Their **parents'** cottage is nestled in the woods.

(The cottage belonging to their parents is nestled in the woods.)

Ex. The **students'** opinions varied widely.

(The opinions of the students varied widely.)

Contractions

Use an apostrophe to replace the omitted letters or numerals in a contraction.

(Note: Do not use apostrophes with possessive pronouns: *his, hers, yours, its, ours, theirs.*)

Examples

aren't = are not

he's = he is

I'm = I am

it's = it is

let's = let us

rock 'n' roll = rock and roll



'70s = 1970s

she'd = she had or she would

shouldn't = should not

there's = there is

they're = they are

we're = we are

we've = we have

you'd = you had or you would

you're = you are