

Apostrophes

Rule 1: Use an apostrophe to form the possessive.

Add 's to any singular noun.

the pen of the teacher = the teacher's pen

the strategy of the boss = the boss's strategy

the wheel of the car = the car's wheel

Add 's to any irregular plural noun that does not end in s:

the hats of the children = the children's hats

Add 's to most indefinite pronouns:

everyone's responsibility

Add an apostrophe only to a regular plural noun that ends in s:

the coats of the ladies = ladies' coats

Rule 2: Use 's to form certain plurals in order to prevent confusion.

Letters:

All his a's look like o's.

Abbreviations with periods:

My sisters both have Ph.D.'s from Berkeley.

Words referred to in a text:

He uses too many *and's* in his writing.

Rule 3: Use an apostrophe to show where one or more letters have been omitted in a contraction.

cannot = can't

should not = shouldn't

will not = won't

I am = I'm

she will = she'll

Apostrophe Exercises: Identify/Correct the errors

1. Its very arduous to cope with todays inflation rate.
2. Sarah's choice is to eat at Burger King, but Kathy does'nt want to.
3. It's all right with me if your late for the engagement.
4. Mockingbird's have been known to attack ligers.

5. My sons' teacher doesn't like me.
6. This store's prices are quite unreasonable.
7. My neighbors' have not mowed their grass in three weeks.
8. The children's coats were soaking wet, but they didn't seem to mind.
9. The men's names were Walter and George.
10. Walter's sister was married to George, who is a friend of your father's.
11. The two dogs' bowls are on top of the refrigerator.
12. We weren't late for our parents' anniversary, but we had to speed to get there.
13. I think it's going to rain before we get to your uncle's store.
14. Is there a good women's dress shop in your neighborhood?
15. They're taking too long to finish that job.
16. Why doesn't your cat like it's kittens?
17. My sisters' are all younger than I am.
18. I saw Sharon's parents in the Giant last night.
19. When you're in the army, you give up a lot of your rights.
20. In the books' Craig studied, there was no mention of suicide.