

APOSTROPHES



Contraction apostrophes

I am sure I didn't forget my homework.

The two words did and not are joined with the **apostrophe** usually showing where the letter or letters are missing.

Other examples:

who + is/has = who's

it + is/has = it's

he + is/has = he's

she + is/has = she's

do + not = don't

can + not = can't

should + not = shouldn't

shall + not = shan't

will + not = won't

Apostrophes are used to show that letters are missed out of a word (**contractions** or **omissions**) and are also used to show **ownership** or **possession**.



Make sure you know the difference between **its** and **it's**:

it's is only short for **it is**. Do not use **it's** for possession.

- ✓ *It's started to rain.*
- ✓ *The dog wagged **its** tail.*



Do not use an apostrophe to show that there is more than one of something.

- ✓ *The toys are broken.*
- ✗ *The toy's are broken.*

Possessive apostrophes

In these examples, the **apostrophe** shows that something belongs to someone or something.

Follow these rules:

How many things are belonging to someone or something?	Does the owner word end in s?	What is the ending to add to show possession?	Example
One (singular)	No	's	the girl's bag
One (singular)	Yes (ends with a single s)	's or '	James's book Charles' hat
One (singular)	Yes (ends with a double s [ss])	's	the princess's throne
More than one (plural)	No	's	children's shoes
More than one (plural)	Yes	'	the girls' skirts