

Apostrophe Quiz

THE APOSTROPHE AND "S"

The apostrophe and s ('s) are used with a singular noun to show possession; also with any plural noun not ending in s: boy's, men's.

The plural possessive, when the plural ends in s, is formed by adding only an apostrophe; as in ladies' clubs.

Exercise 1: Fill the blanks with the correct form of the word given:

1. The young _____ (man) plane finally took off from Kitty Hawk.
2. The Wright _____ (brother) plane made its first historic flight in 1903.
3. A granite monument was erected to honor the Wright _____ (brother) .
4. _____ (Bess) drawings and _____ (Louis) toys cluttered up the room.
5. The _____ (beaver) home was built early that year.
(Meaning one beaver.)
6. The _____ (beaver) homes were built early.
7. The _____ (canary) food was put in the little dish beside him.
8. _____ (canary) songs keep loneliness out of many homes.
9. Bring home some companions for these _____ (canary).
10. The _____ (elephant) are in the parade. See that to young _____ (elephant) trunk.
11. _____ (elephant) trunks are strong enough pick up small boys.
12. That _____ (boy) father is taking them all to the circus tonight.
13. _____ (potato) are grown in Idaho, Wisconsin, and other places.
14. One _____ (farmer) crop was all destroyed but the _____ (potato).
15. A great deal is being done to protect _____ (farmer) rights.
16. Buy some of that _____ (woman) apples, for she needs the money.
17. Only _____ (woman) clothing is sold at the new store.

Exercise 2: Supply the missing apostrophes. Underline possessive nouns.

1. Mark Twain wrote a book about Tom Sawyers adventures.
2. Mark Twains real name was Samuel Clemens.
3. It is an authors privilege to use a pen name.
4. Huckleberry Finns plans did not always work out.
5. Someone had written Beckys name in the sand.

Apostrophe Quiz

Using the apostrophe for contractions. A contraction is a way of combining two words and making one word out of them.

Example: do not=don't

Note that the o of not is omitted in the contraction. An apostrophe (') is placed in the spot where the o had been to show that a letter is being omitted.

Examples: should no=shouldn't ("o" omitted)

I have = I've ("ha" omitted)

Exercise 3: Write these as contractions:

1. I will =	9. They are =
2. You are =	10. She has =
3. Will not =	11. They will =
4. Who is =	12. Would not =
5. They will =	13. Does not =
6. He is=	14. I shall =
7. You have =	15. That paper is =
8. She will =	

NOTE: Won't is an odd contraction because it cannot be broken into its components in the same way the contractions above can.

will not = won't

Exercise 4: Supply the missing apostrophes.

1. Hell go to school in the fall.
2. Its raining.
3. Hes not here now.
4. Youre supposed to leave soon.
5. Theyre at home.
6. Whos at the door.
7. Whats that for?
8. Its hard to do homework when the television is on.
9. Shell be in Europe soon
10. Theyre going to the theater next week.

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Exercise 5: Defining the Possessive

A possessive is a way of showing that someone or something owns something or someone else.

In these phrases, who owns what? Example: "the hat of the man" means the man owns the hat.

1. "The shoes of Mary" means _____
2. "The personality of the teacher" means _____
3. "The office of the dean" means _____
4. "The toys of the children" means _____
5. "The power of the people" means _____
6. "The love of women" means _____
7. "The notebooks of the students" means _____
8. "The husband of the cousin of my friend" means _____

Exercise 5a: Using the apostrophe to show possession (in words that do not already end in s)

Example: (1) The book of my father

BECOMES

(2) My father's book

In phrase **(1)**, who owns what? _____

In phrase **(1)**, what word shows possession? _____

In phrase **(2)** how does the word father's show possession? _____

If the possessive does not end in an s, add an apostrophe and an s to show possession.

Exercise 6: Change these phrases into possessives with an apostrophe and an s

Example: the friend of my uncle BECOMES my uncle's friend

NOTE: that the owner words do not end in s.

1. the text of the instructor = _____
2. a son of that woman = _____
3. the daughter of that man = _____
4. the vacation of a week = _____
5. the needs of the student = _____

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Exercise 6a: Using the apostrophe to show possession (in words that already end in s)

Example: (1) The toys of the girls

BECOMES

(2) The girls' toys

In phrase **(1)**, who owns what? _____

In phrase **(1)**, what word shows possession? _____

In phrase **(2)**, how does the word girl's show possession? _____

If the owner word (possessive) ends in an S, add an apostrophe after the s.

Exercise 7: Change these phrases into possessives with an apostrophe.

1. the marks of the instructors = _____

2. a residence of the students = _____

3. the car of my cousins = _____

4. the papers of these pupils = _____

5. the present of the aunts = _____

Exercise 8: Rewrite each of the following groups of short sentences as one sentence by using a possessive.

Example: Joan has a friend. The friend comes from Chile.

Joan's friend comes from Chile.

1. Tom has a mother. His mother flies jet planes.

2. The people have a committee. The committee is making changes.

3. Linda has a child. The child is sick with the flu.

4. John has a girl friend. She knows astrology.

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5. Mr. Jones owns a cobra. The cobra is very friendly.

6. Bobbie has a class. Her class meets in Gould Hall.

7. My uncles have a friend. The friend has a basement: The basement is loaded with fascinating things.

Exercise 9: If the possessive case in each item in the list has been correctly formed, write a C after the proper number. If it has been incorrectly formed, write the correct form.

1. everyone's friend _____
2. bus' brakes _____
3. childrens' toys _____
4. this school's reputation _____
5. Is this sweater yours'? _____
6. Is this a girl's or a boy's school? _____
7. made its way to port _____
8. tree's trunk _____
9. Victory is our's _____
10. a street of worker's homes _____
11. in the Brown's yard _____
12. that nation's business _____
13. women's objections _____
14. broke it's back _____
15. travelers' passports _____
16. did it's best _____
17. the actors' parts _____
18. Mr. Brown's car _____
19. the oxens' hooves _____
20. men's styles _____

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Exercise 10: In the following list the possessive relationship is expressed by means Of a phrase. Change each so that the possessive case of the noun or pronoun will be used to show the same relationship. Write out your answers.

1. gloves of David and Pat

2. the locker room of the boys

3. personality of a person

4. boat of Charles

5. novels of Kenneth Roberts

6. top of it

7. a delay of a week

8. events of the day

9. wraps of the ladies

10. a wait of ten minutes

11. rays of the sun

12. shoes of the men

13. handbags of the women

14. the meaning of the story

15. the meaning of it

16. office of the boss

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Exercise 11: Underline the correct answer.

1. (Its, It's) too early for lunch.
2. Is this umbrella (yours, your's)?
3. The dog has broken (its, it's) leg.
4. Surely (your, you're) not leaving yet.,
5. Our house is gray; (theirs; their's) is white.
6. Both (boy's boys') bicycles were damaged in the collision.
7. (Who's, Whose) book are you borrowing?
8. Your (ns, n's) look like (m's, ms).
9. Both (boys, boys', boy's) helped me.
10. (Lets, Let's) leave after we've eaten.
11. The class of (64, '64) is holding a reunion.
12. The (Boar's Boars') Head Tavern was a literary center.
13. My neighbor should do something about his two (dog's dogs') barking.
14. My six (day's, days') visit to the beach left me dreadfully sunburned.
15. Advertisements of (men's mens') clothing fill much of the magazine.
16. After a (months', month's) illness Professor Johnson returned to campus.
17. (That's, That's) the best boat you can get for the money.
18. Yes, (its, it's) a long way to our ranch.
19. This leather jacket must be (hers, her's).
20. Are these keys (ours, our's) or their's, theirs)?

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ADD APOSTROPHES WHERE NEEDED:

Exercise 12: Paragraph 1

Mrs. Bartlett is our towns strangest person. She has lived in the big house on Pine Street, without once setting foot outside, for more years than most people remember. In her yard she keeps several cocker spaniels thatll rip a strangers pants in a second. While the regular mailmans face is familiar to the dogs, they treat a substitute mailman like a juicy bone. If the visitor is a friend, Mrs. B. (everyones name for her) will invite him or her in for tea. Her gardener, Willy, watches the dogs while the person hurries to the porch. Willys job, by the way, is also to serve as night watchman. Since hes almost seven feet tall, its not surprising that no prowlers have troubled the property. Inside the house, a maid named Tina takes coats, but she is completely close_mouthed about what Mrs. B. is like. A curiosity_seekers question will get only a scowl from her and a short, "Thats not your business." People in general seem to respect this answer, and no one has really challenged the right of Mrs. B. to live life her own way.

Exercise 13: Paragraph 2

Working as a temporary house packer for Jerrys Moving Service was an enjoyable job for me. First of all, almost no other job allows a person to go into peoples houses and see at close range how they live. I encountered a lot of interesting surprises. For example, one womans house was as neat as a display room in a museum, but her basement was as littered as our towns dump. Another person had converted a bedroom into a small library. In the room there were about seven rows of storage shelves, all filled with issues of magazines like Readers Digest and Redbook. Another positive feature of the job was the sharing of some close moments. Memories often were awakened as people helped pack up items from their past. Many couldnt stop talking once they started. I also liked this job because people would give me things they didnt want anymore. For instance, I received a lot of childrens toys and a complete set of tools. In fact, my mothers cellar started filling with items I received from customers cellars. Final benefits of the job included plenty of snacks and sodas and handsome tips when the job was over. In summary, as a temporary job, house packing was one of my favorites.

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Exercise 14: Paragraph 3

In a small park near the center of Millville, a group of bronze statues stands in a circle. Most of them are models of the individual rich men who provided money for the towns beginning. The center of the circle, however, is occupied by a nameless man. Citizens call him Joe because hes a symbol of the common man. Joes clothes appear tattered, but his body seems strong. His face looks tired, but his eyes look proud. Many people who have stopped in the small park talk about that face when-they leave. Each person Joe represents couldn't give money to the town but gave strength and sweat instead. A farmers back worked to keep the town in food. A womans hands wove, knitted, and sewed clothes. A blacksmiths arms struggled to provide horseshoes and tools. Joes eyes must talk to passers-by. People seem to realize that without the ordinary mans help, that circle of rich men wouldnt exist.