

APOSTROPHES

Apostrophes (') are used to **show ownership or possession** -- that something belongs to someone or something.

The dog has a bone. --- It is the **dog's** bone.

The leaf on the tree is green. --- The **tree's** leaf is green.

That house belongs to John. --- That is **John's** house.

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When you want to make a **singular noun that ends in s** show possession or ownership, add **an apostrophe** and an **s** if you pronounce the extra s.

bus --- The **bus's** tire was flat.

Tess --- **Tess's** cat was soft and fluffy.

class --- It was the **class's** first party.

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When you want to make a plural noun that ends with s show possession or ownership, add only an apostrophe.

boys --- The boys' locker room was empty.

babies --- The babies' cries made the hospital nursery sound like a rock concert.

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When you want to make a plural noun that does not end with s show possession or ownership, add an apostrophe and an s.

people --- The winner was the people's choice.

team --- The team's uniforms were new.

children --- The children's playground was full.

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Possessive pronouns do not need apostrophes to show possession or ownership.

Ours was the best science fair project.

This book is hers.

Theirs is the only team with no games today.

Is that sweater yours?

The cat ate its* dinner from a blue bowl.

*The contraction **it's** does need an apostrophe since it's a combination of the words **it is**.

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Contractions also contain apostrophes.

The apostrophe shows that a letter has been removed when two words are combined to form a new word.

you are --- **you're**

do not --- **don't**

I will --- **I'll**

we are --- **we're**

is not --- **isn't**

it is --- **it's**