

How To Use An Apostrophe



Is it plural?

Plural means more than one.



DON'T
USE AN APOSTROPHE



For Example:

I saw two **kittens** riding a goat.
Goats are great for transportation.



Two Exceptions

1 Is it a single letter word? For example:

There are two t's in "kittens."

Then it's ok, but you can also do this:

There are two "t"s in "kittens."

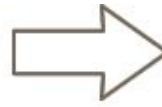
2 Is it a number or abbreviation? For example:

**90's fashion was a bit awkward.
Just say no to hammer pants.**

Then do this:

**I attended college in the
late '90s and early 2000s.**

Is it indicating possession?

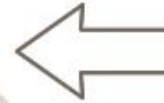


USE
AN APOSTROPHE

Possession means to own something.

For Example: **Bob's** hat was made out of jelly beans.

But Watch Out



Is it plural and possessive? For Example:
The **soldiers'** rifles were no match for Bob's
amazing lightning pants.



Then put the apostrophe **after** the "s."

Unless

It's a word that's already plural, such as
"children," then you'd write "children's."



Is it a contraction?



USE
AN APOSTROPHE

A contraction is when you omit a few letters. For example:

I (**cannot** ➔ **can't**) believe you fit that entire watermelon in your mouth!

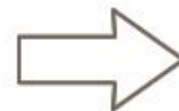
I (**do not** ➔ **don't**) like putting honeybees in my underpants.

I (**would not** ➔ **wouldn't**) recommend scuba diving inside a volcano.

IT'S

Are you trying to say "it is?"

(or "it has")



USE
AN APOSTROPHE

For Example:

It's (**it is**) unusual to put crickets in your coffee, but I do it anyway.

It's (**it has**) been a fun day. We should go to the velociraptor petting zoo more often!

ITS

If you're unsure, simply try replacing "it's" with "it is."
If it sounds ok that way, use an apostrophe.



2 Are you indicating possession?

For Example:

The velociraptor is known for **its** cute, playful nature, but **its** inability to sing in key is unfortunate.



DON'T
USE AN APOSTROPHE

Is it a possessive and plural name?

For Example: The Johnsons' moonwich recipe was very famous.

In this case, you're referring to the entire Johnson family.

STICK IT
AFTER THE "S"

Is it a possessive name ending in "s?"

For Example:

Charles's rocketship allowed him to have lunch on the moon.

Charles' cat is always terrified during liftoff.

BOTH
ARE ACCEPTABLE
JUST BE CONSISTENT



TO RECAP

Remember that most apostrophes are used for possessive nouns.
So if a noun owns something, use an apostrophe:

Bob's jellybean hat became sticky in the scorching sun.



Or use it for contractions:

Bob's going to the store to create a bacon hat instead.



And if it's plural, don't use an apostrophe:

Bacon **hats** do not melt and they smell wonderful.

↙ **LASTLY** ↘
When in doubt

→ **DON'T** ←

USE AN APOSTROPHE