

Apostrophe

Apostrophes are used for two main reasons:

1. To replace a missing letter or letters in a contraction:
Don't (contraction for *do not*)
I'll (contraction for *I will*)
2. To show ownership:
Carl's dog (the *dog* belongs to *Carl*)

An apostrophe is typically not used to pluralize numbers, letters, abbreviations, and words mentioned as words. Often times, plural words used as plural words, are written in italics; however, when they are written in Roman type, with quotation marks, the apostrophe is used:

There are too many “but’s” associated with this conversation.

Note the following:

1. Singular possessives, add an apostrophe *s*. If the noun ends in *s* or an *s* sound, to form the singular possessive, add *apostrophe s*.
the woman's pencil
James's computer
2. Plural possessives add an apostrophe after the *s*.
ladies' hats
3. Joint ownership uses an apostrophe before the *s* or an apostrophe after the *s* with the last noun only:
Tom and Jerry's ice cream enterprise is a joint-venture icon.
If, on the other hand, you wish to show individual possession, make all the nouns possessive.
Hernado's and Silvia's ideas of financial responsibility were entirely different.
4. Possessive compound nouns require ‘s or s’ with the last element only.
Her father-in-law's creativity was over-whelming.
5. Plural nouns that do not end in *s* such as *children, mice, deer, men, women, etc.* form possessives by simply adding ‘s.
6. Words such as *his, her, their, its, yours* are called possessive pronouns. Because they already imply ownership, they do not require an apostrophe.
The book is theirs, not yours.
Each area has its own set of computers.