Name_____
Date_____

Apostrophes

The apostrophe has two primary functions:

1) to show possession of a noun
2) to show the omission of letters

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1) to show possession of a noun

• **add 's to the singular form of the word (even if it ends in -s):**

I drive near the president's house every day.

I like James's car.

• **add ' to the end of plural nouns that end in -s:**

These are my sisters' dresses.

These are my friends' pencils.

• **add 's to the last noun to show joint possession of an object:**

We are at Todd and Anne's apartment.

Note: Apostrophes should not be used with possessive pronouns because possessive pronouns already show possession -- they don't need an apostrophe. *His, her(s), its, my, mine, your(s), our(s), their(s)* are all possessive pronouns.

Note: As a general rule, if the possessive noun is an inanimate object (not living, no causal agency) then no apostrophe is needed. There are exceptions to this rule, however.

Example: That is the door of the car. → That is the car door.

In the example, notice that the car does not need a possessive apostrophe because it is an inanimate object.

Directions: Change the "_____ of _____" phrases into possessive noun phrases using an apostrophe.

Example: That is the house of David. → That is David's house.

1) This is the shoe of the girl. → _____.

2) We are at the room of the hotel. → _____.

3) He is the son of Marcus. → _____.

4) This is the house of Julie and Juan. → _____.

5) Please close the door of the car. → _____.

6) The flowers of the plant are red. → _____.

7) The website of the College is confusing. → _____.

8) I want to play the guitar of Ernesto. → _____.

9) Do you want to walk to the side of the river? → _____.

10) I want to ride in the car of Bobbie. → _____.

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2) to show the omission of letters and to form contractions

• Apostrophes are used to show any omission of letters in a word.

• Apostrophes are also used to form contractions. A contraction is a combination of two words which results in a single word. The apostrophe is used where letters have been omitted. Contractions are common in speaking and in informal writing.

• Here are some examples of contractions:

Affirmative Contractions

Pronoun	**+ to be**		**+ would**	**+ will**
I	I am	I'm	I'd	I'll
you	you are	you're	you'd	you'll
we	we are	we're	we'd	we'll
they	they are	they're	they'd	they'll
he	he is	he's	he'd	he'll
she	she is	she's	she'd	she'll
it	it is	it's	it'd	it'll
there	there is:	there's	there'd	there'll
that	that is	that's	this'd	this'll

Note: the only time you need to use an apostrophe for "it is" is when forming the contraction "it's". "Its" (with no apostrophe) is used to show possession.

Negative Contractions

Verb + not	**Contraction**
do not	don't
does not	doesn't
did not	didn't
is not	isn't
are not	aren't
was not	wasn't
were not	weren't
has not	hasn't
have not	haven't
had not	hadn't
will not	won't
would not	wouldn't
can not	can't
could not	couldn't
should	shouldn't

Directions: Use apostrophes in the following sentences to make contractions.

Example: I am your friend. → I'm your friend.

1) I do not like vanilla ice cream. → _____.

2) I am going to the mall. → _____.

3) Who is the new student? → _____.

4) They are my best friends. → _____.

5) We are not waiting in the line. → _____.

6) She will be the class president. → _____.

7) He should not worry so much. → _____.

8) They will be here in fifteen minutes. → _____.

9) Where is my blue book? → _____.

10) She does not eat spinach. → _____.

Directions: Use what you have learned to punctuate the following sentences with apostrophes.

Example: Where is the book of John? → Where's John's book?

1) This is not the key I was looking for.

_____.

2) I want to pet the head of the dog.

_____.

3) That is the hat of Jones.

_____.

4) I need to go to the market of the town to buy milk.

_____.

5) Did you not wash the car of Bill?

_____.

6) This wallet belongs to Tito.

_____.

7) This one is nicer than the one that Dan has.

_____.

8) It is funny when the dog chases its tail.

_____.

9) We should not take the car of my father to the beach.

_____.

10) She is the best student in the college.

_____.