

# Beginner **Apostrophe**



The **apostrophe** has only a handful of uses, but these uses are very important. A misplaced apostrophe can be annoying — not to mention lonely.

## **The apostrophe is used:**

1. to create possessives
2. to show contractions
3. to create some plural forms

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With multisyllabic words, don't add another "s" after the apostrophe.

**Example:**   *Dumas' second novel*           *Jesus' birth,*  
                  *Socrates' ideas*                   *Illinois' legislature*

To form the possessive of an inanimate object, we're usually better off using an "of phrase," but the apostrophe possessive is not impossible, especially with expressions of time and in personifications.

**Example:**   *a year's salary*                   *my heart's desire*  
                  *your dollar's worth*                *the paper's conclusion*

## Beginner **Apostrophe**

To form the possessive of a plural noun, we pluralize first and then add the apostrophe. Notice that with an irregular plural, the apostrophe will come before the “s.”

- Example:**    *The Mikio's house*  
                  *The children's playhouse*  
                  *The travelers' expectations*

A contraction allows us to blend sounds by omitting letters from a verb construction. The apostrophe shows where something is left out.

- Example:**    *I am a student here = I'm a student here*  
                  *I have been working on the railroad. = I've been working on the railroad.*

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The apostrophe is also used to form the plural of digits and letters and to indicate omission of a number in a date

- Example:**    *The word Mississippi has four s's.*  
                  *She got three A's and two B's last semester.*  
                  *She dotted all her i's very carefully.*  
                  *summer of '99; class of '38*

The apostrophe doesn't mind being used, but it wants to be used wisely.  
Use it well and it will be there whenever you need it!