

## APOSTROPHES:

1. The word used to show possession/ownership must be a noun (person, place, or thing), not an adjective or verb.

*The coach went over the team's plays.  
Remember to pick up the dog's squeaky toys.  
Chicago's book fair is on Saturdays and Sundays.*

2. If the possessive noun is singular, add 's.

*Kansas's population has grown considerably over the years.  
The intern picked up the boss's suit.  
Mr. Dawson asked the class's opinion.*

3. If the possessive noun is plural but does not end in an s, add 's.

*The Magi's gift was appreciated.  
The children's toys were loud.  
Law protects the people's rights.*

4. If the possessive noun is plural and ends in an s, just add an apostrophe.

*Birds' feathers have many functions.  
The babies' gurgles were adorable.  
The neighborhood families' group garage sale was a success.*

5. Some words are already possessive and do not need apostrophes:

*mine, yours, her, his, theirs, ours*

6. If a similar sounding (homophone) contraction exists, the word used to show possession does not have an apostrophe, while the contraction does.

Possession / Ownership	Contraction
its <i>The dog wagged <u>its</u> tail.</i>	it's (it is) <i><u>It's</u> going to rain tomorrow.</i>
whose <i><u>Whose</u> jacket is this?</i>	who's (who is) <i>Do you know <u>who's</u> coming to dinner?</i>
their <i>The kids cleaned <u>their</u> rooms.</i>	they're (they are) <i><u>They're</u> such a great couple!</i>
your <i>I love <u>your</u> new hairstyle!</i>	you're (you are) <i><u>You're</u> welcome!</i>