

Using Apostrophies



The apostrophe has 2 functions:

One is to show possession/ownership and the other is to show omission of letters or words.

1. An apostrophe shows ownership:

John's new shoes are red.

1a. These are the student's books.

Several books belonging to 1 student.

1b. These are the students' books.

Books belonging to a group of students.

My 3 friends' shirts are blue.

More than 1 friend.

The lions' Den

(More than 1 lion)

Amos' books (instead of Amos's books)

(Sometimes a name ending on an s is given an apostrophe instead of an additional s and apostrophe as seen in the name Amos and Janis typically both are correct.)

1c. Add an apostrophe to the end of plural nouns that end in s:

Boys' hats.

Players' uniforms

2. An apostrophe is used in contractions when a word or letter(s) is missing:

2a. Don't go outside. (Do not)

I'll finish my homework later. (I will – I'll)