

USING THE APOSTROPHE

ANSWER KEY

Practice
WORKSHEET

Exercise One

Analyze each of the following and then identify if the apostrophe is being used correctly or incorrectly.

		Correct	Incorrect
1	Steve's phone wouldn't turn on.	✓	
2	Beth didn't enjoy scary movies.		X
3	It's a tough day when we lose.	✓	
4	It was the product of several years' work.	✓	
5	She stumbled into the mens' bathroom.		X
6	The lion leisurely licked it's paws.		X

		Correct	Incorrect
7	He interrupted the accountants's lunch.		X
8	The chair was ugly; its presence was off-putting.	✓	
9	The students shouts' of joy filled the hall.		X
10	Mr. Stevens' briefcase sat on the kitchen table.	✓	
11	The mess in the room was our's.		X
12	He couldn't get over the fact that she didn't arrive.	✓	

Exercise Two

For each of the following sentences have apostrophe errors (some have multiple). First circle the errors and then re-write the sentences with the corrections.

- Josephine's diary was left open on the desk.
Josephine's diary was left open on the desk.
- He walked into the girls' locker room by mistake.
He walked into the girls' locker room by mistake.
- She didn't know which of the socks was hers and which were Amy's.
She didn't know which of the socks was hers and which were Amy's.
- When I have guests, they always use the visitors' bathroom.
When I have guests, they always use the visitors' bathroom.
- I'm always late for school in the mornings, but it's my dad's fault.
I'm always late for school in the mornings, but it's my dad's fault.
- Jane Austen's books are the classes' favorite.
Jane Austen's books are the classes' favorite.
- Charles' doctor's office is in the next building.
Charles' doctor's office is in the next building.
- We've achieved high marks this year; we're New York's best school.
We've achieved high marks this year; we're New York's best school.
- Her baby loves the rattle; it's his best toy.
Her baby loves the rattle; it's his best toy.
- The children's bags weren't labeled, so I didn't know which was Sarah's.
The children's bags weren't labeled, so I didn't know which was Sarah's.

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ANSWER KEY

Practice
SHEET

Many people make errors when using the apostrophe, and it is particularly embarrassing when these errors appear in print or business advertising. Examine such errors below, and then rewrite them, making the corrections, and then explain why the apostrophe is in the place it should be.

**NO DOG'S
ALLOWED**

Rewrite: NO DOGS ALLOWED

Explain: The word 'dog' is made plural by adding the s.
There is no possession or omission.

**Get you're
fresh fruit
HERE!**

Rewrite: Get your fresh fruit HERE!

Explain: The word 'your' is not a contraction of 'you are'.
It is a possessive determiner.

**DAILY
SPECIALS**
Joe's Tomato
Soup
Homemade
Paninis
Chocolate Tarts

Rewrite: Homemade Paninis

Explain: The paninis don't own anything! They are just pluralized, hence no apostrophe required.

**50% OFF
TODAYS PIES**

Rewrite: 50% OFF TODAY'S PIES

Explain: The pies belong to the day, therefore an apostrophe is required to show possession.

**Your welcome
to come in!**

Rewrite: You're welcome to come in!

Explain: "You're" is a contraction of 'you are', therefore the apostrophe is needed to show omission.

**Farmers
Market Open
On Friday's**

Rewrite: Farmers' Market Open On Fridays.

Explain: The Market belongs to the farmers (pl.), and Friday doesn't possess anything, it's just plural.

**WORLD'S BEST
COFFEE
SOLD HERE**

Rewrite: WORLD'S BEST COFFEE SOLD HERE

Explain: They are referring to the world (the one and only), and not multiple worlds.

**IT'S ALL
ON SALE**

Rewrite: IT'S ALL ON SALE

Explain: Here there is a contraction of "it is", therefore the apostrophe is required to show omission.

USING THE APOSTROPHE

Exercise One

For each of the following sentences, rearrange the words to show possession by means of an apostrophe. The first one has been done for you as an example.

e.g. The adults took the sandwiches which belonged to the children.

The adults took the children's sandwiches.

1. He could not stop the unalterable pace of Time.

He could not stop Time's unalterable pace.

2. The governor did nothing to help the people of Kansas.

The governor did nothing to help Kansas' people.

3. The chill of winter started to set in last week.

Winter's chill started to set in last week.

4. The racket, which belonged to Tim, had been broken.

Tim's racket had been broken.

5. The wind blew off the hats, which belonged to the ladies.

The wind blew off the ladies' hats.

Exercise Two

Your or You're?

	Correct	Incorrect
1 I want to borrow your scarf.	X	
2 Tom likes you're website.		X
3 You're supposed to listen!	X	
4 You're dog is so cute!		X
5 Call me when your home.		X
6 Call me from your home.	X	
7 Don't use your own phone.	X	
8 You're grammar is important.		X
9 Your going to fall!		X
10 Don't listen to your friend.	X	

Exercise Three

Their, there, there's, they're?

Fill in the correct one.

1	Please pass me <u>their</u> books.
2	<u>They're</u> not allowed in here.
3	<u>There's</u> no reason to cry.
4	The boys know <u>their</u> grammar.
5	I hate pigs; <u>they're</u> so smelly.
6	If <u>there's</u> no lunch, I will cry.
7	<u>There</u> are people in the shop.
8	No one wants <u>their</u> secrets told.
9	Don't go <u>there</u> alone.
10	<u>There's</u> water in the engine.