

# Apostrophes

When and when not to use them.

Apostrophes can be used to show  
missing letters.

I can not come to the party.

I can't come to the party.

*Can not* becomes *can't*.

The apostrophe shows that there are letters  
missing.

# More examples of apostrophes for contraction.

Jack would not play with his baby brother.

Jack *wouldn't* play with his baby brother.

Emma did not want to eat the unhealthy chocolate cake.

Emma *didn't* want to eat the unhealthy chocolate cake.

What do these words become when  
you shorten them?

have not

they will

shall not

I have

you are

# Its and it's

So many people get this wrong!!!

The apostrophe is only used to show 'it is'.

*It's* sunny today.

*It's* very kind of you to give me your last sweet.

“*It's* full of wonderful things,” exclaimed Howard Carter after discovering Tutankhamun's tomb.

# Apostrophes for possession.

Apostrophes are also used to show possession.

***Mrs Clarke's computer*** – the computer belongs to Mrs Clarke and there is only one Mrs Clarke, so the apostrophe goes before the 's'

# More possessive apostrophes;

Oliver's book bag – the book bag belongs to Oliver.

Bob's football boots – the boots belong to Bob.

Julie's toy dalek – the dalek belongs to Julie.

# When things belong to more than one person;

When more than one person is involved, the  
apostrophe comes after the 's'.

The boys' cloakroom – more than one boy.

The players' changing room – more than one player.

The teachers' staffroom – more than one teacher.



# Where should the apostrophe go?

Janes shoes

Nicks new car

The cats whiskers (one cat)

The horses stables (6  
horses)

The raiders boat (lots of  
raiders)

# Some common errors involving apostrophes;

## Spot the mistakes

Fish and chip's

The car's were on the road.

Half price clothe's

I saw a dog with it's bone.

Lucys book's were on the table.