

APOSTROPHES

You learned about them a long time ago, and then mysteriously stopped using them...

WHAT IS AN APOSTROPHE?

- An apostrophe looks like a comma floating in the air.
- It is used to show possession (someone owns something) or a contraction (the mushing together of two words to make one word).
- It is **ALMOST NEVER** used to make a word plural. There are only a **VERY FEW** exceptions to this rule, and we will go over them in class.

APOSTROPHES USED TO SHOW POSSESSION:

- For a singular noun, show possession by adding 's.
 - dog collar = dog's collar
 - House siding = house's siding
 - Moon surface = moon's surface
- Some people get confused about singular nouns that already end in "s." There's no reason to be confused about this! You still add 's.
 - Dress sleeves = dress's sleeves
 - Gas aroma = gas's aroma
 - Bus wheels = bus's wheels

APOSTROPHES USED TO SHOW POSSESSION:

- The only tricky part about using apostrophes to show possession is when you have a PLURAL noun that ends in s.
- First, make your word plural, and then make it possessive, like this:

Singular,

make it plural:

make it possessive;

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| • Dog collar | dogs collars | dogs' collars |
| • Dress sleeves | dresses sleeves | dresses' sleeves |
| • Chris birthday | Chrises birthdays | Chrises' birthdays |

APOSTROPHES SHOW POSSESSION...

- Like with most grammar skills, the best way to get this figured out is through...
- DRILL AND KILL