

APOSTROPHES

You need to start using them again... Educated people can't understand what you're writing... You're getting to the age where dumb is no longer cute... it's just dumb.

APOSTROPHES SHOW CONTRACTIONS

Contractions happen when you mush two words together to make one word. We do this when we talk, basically because we're lazy, and it has passed on into our writing.

- Examples:

Can not = can't

Will not = won't

Do not = don't

Should not = shouldn't

Could have = Could've

Would have = Would've

Might have = might've

Should have = Should've

APOSTROPHES SHOW CONTRACTIONS

Be careful of the “of” and “’ve” conundrum! Because of the way we pronounce “of” and “have” and “’ve,” we often mistake the contraction ‘ve or the helping verb “have” for the preposition “of.”

- NONSTANDARD: She should of told me she was coming.
 - STANDARD: She should’ve told me she was coming.
- NONSTANDARD: He would of stopped if you had asked.
 - STANDARD: He would’ve stopped if you had asked.
- NONSTANDARD: They could of been more helpful.
 - STANDARD: They could’ve been more helpful.
- NONSTANDARD: You shouldn’t of said that to her.
 - STANDARD: You shouldn’t have said that to her.

DON'T CONFUSE CONTRACTIONS WITH POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS!

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Its = belongs to it | It's = it is or it has |
| • Your = belongs to you | You're = you are |
| • Their = belongs to them | They're = they are |
| • Whose = belongs to who | Who's = Who is |

QUICK RULE:

Possessive pronouns **DO NOT** contain apostrophes!

- Hers
- Its
- Ours
- Theirs

DRILL IT AND KILL IT!