

Experiment With Apostrophes!

We can use **apostrophes** to show that something **belongs to someone or something**. When we use **apostrophes** like this, we call it **possession**. Circle the **apostrophes** that show **possession** in this text and then fill in the blanks.

The cat's eyes glittered in the darkness as the moon's silver light rippled over the cobblestones. Slowly, she began to walk towards the children, her paws completely soundless. She touched the hem of Angel's cloak with a single, sharp claw and hissed angrily. Ronan's voice echoed through the empty street. "What is it that you want?"

1. The eyes belong to **the cat** .
2. The light belongs to **the moon** .
3. The cloak belongs to **Angel** .
4. The voice belongs to **Ronan** .

Now add **apostrophes** into this text to show **possession**. (There should be seven.) Remember... the **apostrophe** always comes just before the s !

Benji shot out of Mr **Salami's** shop, his short legs carrying him away at lightning speed. The little **dog's** teeth gripped the string of sausages tightly and he grinned a doggy grin as the angry **butcher's** shouting grew fainter and fainter. He raced first through **Annie's** garden, then **Joe's**, then **Edward's**. At last he was home. Those sausages would make an unexpected surprise for his young **master's** birthday!

5. The shop belongs to **Mr Salami** .
6. The teeth belong to **the dog** .
7. The shouting belongs to **the butcher** .
8. The gardens belong to **Annie, Joe and Edward** .
9. The birthday belongs to **the dog's master** .

Apostrophes can be used for something else too. When we push two words together, like *did* and *not*, we can make a new word - *didn't*. We call this kind of word a **contraction**. A **contraction** is just one word made out of two words squashed together - but with some letters missing.

You might have noticed that when we made *didn't*, the o from *did not* disappeared! The **apostrophe** in any **contraction** is just there to show us that some letters have been taken away.

Can you make **contractions** out of the underlined words in these sentences? Let's see if you can put the **apostrophes** in the correct places too!

10. (What is) **What's** the time?
11. I (have not) **haven't** done my homework yet.
12. (He will) **He'll** go mad when he sees all this mess!
13. I think (you have) **you've** just sat on my cupcake.
14. Whatever you do, (do not) **don't** spill that on her new carpet!
15. (Who is) **Who's** going to try out the swing (I have) **I've** just built?
16. (I am) **I'm** thinking that, sadly, he (did not) **didn't** remember that sleeping dragons (do not) **don't** like to be tickled.

Now it's time to challenge yourself! Some of the sentences below have **apostrophes** because of **possession**, but some of them have **apostrophes** because of **contraction**. See if you can underline the **possessive ones in blue**, and the **contractions in green**.

17. I **don't** know.
18. That **isn't** funny.
19. Where is the **cat's** basket?
20. I **can't** smell anything.
21. Put it in **Danny's** tray.
22. Then the **teacher's** handbag exploded!
23. **What's** the matter?
24. This **rabbit's** ears are quite floppy.
25. That is **yesterday's** newspaper.
26. It **wasn't** me!