

Varied Fluency

Step 3: When Should You NOT Use An Apostrophe?

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Apostrophes to mark plural possession \[for example, the girl's name, the girls' names\]](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support recognising correct use of apostrophes for contractions where one letter is omitted from one word and apostrophes for possession where the pronoun does not end in -s. Possessive pronouns include its, their, hers.

Expected Questions to support recognising correct use of apostrophes for contractions where one or more letters are omitted from one word and apostrophes for possession where the pronoun can end in -s. Possessive pronouns include theirs, ours, his, mine.

Greater Depth Questions to support recognising correct use of apostrophes for contractions where one or more letters are omitted from multiple words and apostrophes for possession where two pronouns are used (Max and Ruby's ball). Possessive pronouns include yours singular and yours plural.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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When Should You NOT Use An Apostrophe?

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1a. True or false? The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

Dad asked the children to tidy their toy's up quickly.



VF

1b. True or false? The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

The coach wanted his team to win all of their game's this season.



VF

2a. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|----------|--|
| banana's | |
| their's | |
| drink's | |
| Lucys' | |



VF

2b. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|--------|--|
| her's | |
| Zains' | |
| did'nt | |
| meal's | |



VF

3a. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

The dog's treat's were well hidden.

My mums' friend's are kind to me so I'm happy when they come round.



VF

3b. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

Our cars' engine doesn't work because it's worn out.

The cat's kitten's are really cute.



VF

4a. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

I think it's claws are too long and might need to be trimmed.

The children's bag's are lying all over the floor.

Aren't we using our armband's in the pool today?



VF

4b. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

Education's the way to a better future, so wer'e going to work very hard.

The kitten cry's when he want's to be fed by his mum.

The bird fly's south in the winter where the weather's warmer.



VF

When Should You NOT Use An Apostrophe?

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5a. True or false? The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

“Molly, please will you collect the pencil’s?” asked the teacher.



VF

5b. True or false? The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

“May I have some grape’s, please?” asked Mohammed.



VF

6a. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| apple’s | |
| shouldv’e | |
| their’s | |
| Chris’ | |



VF

6b. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|--------|--|
| our’s | |
| his’s | |
| sha’nt | |
| desk’s | |



VF

7a. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

The cow’s calve’s are very cute.

The teachers’ pen would’nt work because it’d run out.



VF

7b. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

My sister’s hairclip’s look pretty.

My dads’ razor doesn’t work because its’ blunt.



VF

8a. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

We’re worried about all the bike’s on the roads.

Time fly’s when you’re enjoying yourself.

The childrens’ books are in a mess and I’m not tidying them up!



VF

8b. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

“That phone is his’s,” I yelled.

My baby brother cry’s when he’s hungry because he ca’nt talk yet.

Why didn’t you help the elderly person pick up the thing’s they’d dropped?



VF

When Should You NOT Use An Apostrophe?

9a. True or false? The apostrophes have been used correctly in the sentence below.

Sh'ed better not get her hands dirty now, or she wo'nt be able to bake the cake's!



VF

When Should You NOT Use An Apostrophe?

9b. True or false? The apostrophes have been used correctly in the sentence below.

Yo'ud better not set off late, or you'l miss the training session's.



VF

10a. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Cerys' | <input type="text"/> |
| Id' | <input type="text"/> |
| Jo's and Bob's | <input type="text"/> |
| your's | <input type="text"/> |



VF

10b. The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| yours' | <input type="text"/> |
| James' | <input type="text"/> |
| Tom's and Su's | <input type="text"/> |
| tomato's | <input type="text"/> |



VF

11a. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

The elve's worked hard in the shoemaker's workshop to finish the shoes.

I hope you're proud of you'r art. You've done an amazing job!



VF

11b. Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

They're marching through the streets down ther'e, as is the'ir right!

Wow, that's amazing! You've done a brilliant job with Thomas's outfit.



VF

12a. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

"Is this your's?" I ask'd my sister when I found a jumper on the floor.

The fly's wings are injured. It no longer flies as fast as the other fly's.

Max and Rubys' ball was lost in Adils' garden where they'd just planted new flower's.



VF

12b. Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

I saw a pencil on the floor, so I asked all of my friends, "Is this yours'?"

My puppy cry's for milk from it's mum when it's hungry, which is all the time.

We'd forgotten to thank Jan and Annas' mum for the lift when she'd dropped us off at the schools' gate.



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Apostrophe?

Developing

- 1a. **False, it should be 'toys'.**
- 2a. **bananas, theirs, drinks, Lucy's**
- 3a. **dog's, I'm**
- 4a. **It's, bag's, armband's**

Expected

- 5a. **False, it should be 'pencils'.**
- 6a. **apples, should've, theirs, Chris's**
- 7a. **cow's, it'd**
- 8a. **Bike's, fly's, childrens'**

Greater Depth

- 9a. **False, it should be 'she'd', 'won't' and 'cakes'.**
- 10a. **Cerys's, I'd, Jo and Bob's, yours**
- 11a. **shoemaker's, you're, you've**
- 12a. **your's, ask'd, fly's (second use), Ruby's, Adils', flower's**

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When Should You NOT Use An
Apostrophe?

Developing

- 1b. **False, it should be 'games'.**
- 2b. **hers, Zain's, didn't, meals**
- 3b. **doesn't, it's, cat's**
- 4a. **wer'e, cry's, want's, fly's**

Expected

- 5b. **False, it should be 'grapes'.**
- 6b. **ours, his, shan't, desks**
- 7b. **sister's, doesn't**
- 8b. **his's, cry's, ca'nt, thing's**

Greater Depth

- 9b. **False, it should be 'You'd', 'you'll' and 'sessions'.**
- 10b. **yours, James's, Tom and Su's, tomatoes**
- 11b. **They're, that's, You've, Thomas's**
- 12b. **yours', cry's, it's, Annas', schools'**