

Apostrophes

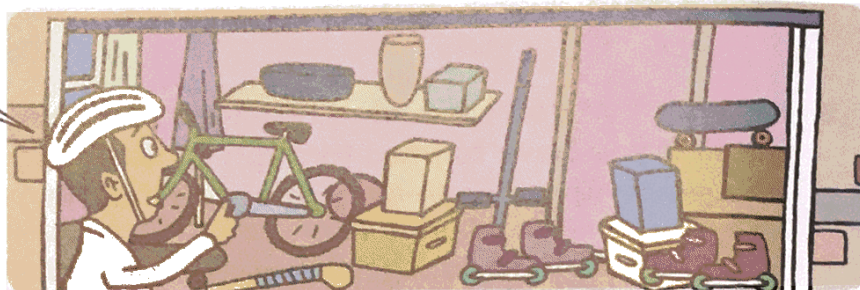
(contractions and possessive nouns)

There are two occasions when you should use an **apostrophe**:

- in a **contraction**
(when two words are joined together and some letters are missed out)
- to show **ownership**.

I'm going for a bike ride.

I'm is short for **I am**.
The apostrophe shows
that a letter is missing.



the **boy's** bike

This means **the bike belonging to the boy**.
When there is just one owner, we usually add **'s** to the noun.

the **girls'** skateboards

This means **the skateboards belonging to the girls**.
When there is more than one owner, we add **'** to the noun if it ends in **s**.

the **children's** skates

This means **the skates belonging to the children**.
We add **'s** if there is no **s** at the end of the plural noun.

Getting started

1. Write each of these contractions in full.
The first one has been done to help you.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| a) I'm → I am | b) I've | c) she's | d) you're |
| e) it's | f) haven't | g) couldn't | h) wasn't |
| i) aren't | j) who's | k) we're | l) let's |
| m) they've | n) she'll | o) we'd | p) they'll |

2. Write each of these sentences using the contraction of the underlined words.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a) I <u>had not</u> seen the film before. | b) He <u>did not</u> want it. |
| c) <u>That is</u> a good book. | d) <u>We will</u> help. |
| e) <u>You will</u> be sorry. | f) <u>Do not</u> go. |
| g) <u>It is</u> a good idea. | h) You <u>should not</u> come. |
| i) <u>They are</u> late. | j) It <u>would not</u> matter. |
| k) <u>We have</u> got two. | l) You <u>need not</u> go in. |