

I'm not a bot







## Do you put an apostrophe after a plural

The Use of Apostrophes: A Guide to Understanding Its Proper Usage Using apostrophes helps clarify ownership, possession, or missing letters in a word. The three primary reasons for using apostrophes are: 1. **\*\*Missing Letters\*\***: To indicate that one or more letters are absent from a word. For example: "I'm going to the zoo." (The apostrophe shows the absence of 'u' in 'I'm') and "You can't feed the animals." (The apostrophe indicates the absence of 'e' in 'can't') 2. **\*\*Possession\*\***: To show that something belongs to someone or something. For instance: "The girl's idea was accepted." (Singular - the idea a girl has had) and "The girls' idea was accepted." (Plural - an idea a group of girls has had) 3. **\*\*Plural Nouns\*\***: To indicate that more than one person or thing is involved. For example: "This is the people's choice" (plural - referring to multiple choices made by many people) and "We invited the children's parents to this event." (plural - involving more than one child) However, there are exceptions where apostrophes are not used: **\*** Normal plurals do not require an apostrophe. **\*** The word 'its' is used for possession and does not need an apostrophe. Additionally, some words have specific rules for their usage with apostrophes. For example: "Travis's album" but "Socrates' ideals." Apostrophes are punctuation marks that create contractions or show ownership for possessive nouns. They can be used after an 's' to indicate possession or singular nouns ending in 's'. Plural Nouns Showing Possession \_\_\_\_\_ Certain plural nouns require the use of an apostrophe and s to indicate possession. For instance: "The candles'" flames were already burning when Rhea decided to put them out. Other examples are: "The houses'" designs are too simple because you didn't hire a good architect. \_\_\_\_\_ Salmons are another example of plural nouns that show possession, as their love for both saltwater and freshwater makes them common species. For example, in the sentence: "Salmons' love for both salt water and fresh water makes them a common species." \_\_\_\_\_ However, using an apostrophe with singular nouns ending in S can be tricky. According to general rules, add an apostrophe and s if it's singular. For instance: "The bus's tires flattened so we had to transfer to a new one." \_\_\_\_\_ Some style guides allow for only an apostrophe after the letter S in cases of singular common nouns. For example: "The bus' tires flattened so we had to transfer to a new one." \_\_\_\_\_ Moreover, using proper nouns with an apostrophe and s is generally accepted according to AP Stylebook. For instance: "Chris's lecture changed my perspective." \_\_\_\_\_ However, other style guides recommend adding an extra S after the S and apostrophe for possessive forms. For example: "Travis's girlfriend today." \_\_\_\_\_ Using an apostrophe only if the reader will pronounce it can make things more complex. For instance, many English speakers do not pronounce the sound for Chris. Therefore, we write Chris' instead of Chris's. \_\_\_\_\_ In some cases, names ending in silent letters such as S, Z, or X require adding an extra S after the apostrophe. For example: "De Prez's music." \_\_\_\_\_ Lastly, when referring to a family using their surname with an apostrophe is common. For instance: "The Joneses' house." \_\_\_\_\_ Instead of adding two S's, use only one apostrophe after the letter S. For example: The United States' government structure or The Philippines' beaches. This rule applies to states and other places too. If a place ends with an S sound but doesn't have the actual letter S, you'll need to add another S after the apostrophe. For instance, Children's is correct because it shows possession of children, but when referring to kids in general, we say "children are" rather than using a contraction like "child's". The basic rules most style guides promote are: Singular words ending with S use an apostrophe and S for possessive form, while plural words ending in S only need an apostrophe. To test your understanding, challenge yourself to this simple quiz: Apostrophes can be tricky, especially when it comes to placing them correctly in plural nouns. In English, use an apostrophe after the letter S in the possessive form of a plural noun that ends with S. This article will explore these rules further and provide guidance on using apostrophes after the letter S. If you're unsure about apostrophe placement or other punctuation marks, consider running your writing through ProWritingAid's free grammar checker to ensure accuracy. Contents: The primary function of the apostrophe is to show possession, indicating that something belongs to someone or something else. We use an apostrophe and the letter S together to form the possessive form of a noun. However, the placement of the apostrophe varies depending on whether it's a singular or plural noun, as well as how the plural form is spelled. In general, when forming a possessive plural noun, we only need to add an apostrophe after the S. No additional letters are required after the possessive apostrophe. On the other hand, with singular nouns, we place the apostrophe before the S to show possession. Let's look at some examples of possessive plural nouns: The dogs' water bowl or My two friends' parents or The girls' room. The apostrophe after the letter S tells us there is more than one dog, friend, or girl, respectively. You can also place an apostrophe after the letter S when a proper singular noun ends with S, but some resources recommend adding another S after the apostrophe for consistency. For instance, "James's" and "James'" are both grammatically correct, although some guides suggest one over the other. When a plural noun ends with an S, you can't put an apostrophe after it. Instead, use an apostrophe + S to make it possessive. For example, "children's" is the correct way to show possession of "child." Here are some examples: The mice's cheese The women's restroom Her teeth's enamel To make a proper noun plural, you need to add S to the end without an apostrophe. For example, Smith becomes Smiths. Correct: Merry Christmas from the Smiths Incorrect: Merry Christmas from the Smith's or Merry Christmas from the Smiths' If you want to show possession of a proper noun, use an apostrophe after the S. For example: Correct: The Smiths' annual Christmas party Incorrect: The Smith's annual Christmas party In general, remember that only use an apostrophe + S with plural nouns ending in S to show possession, and never add an apostrophe to a proper noun to make it plural. house Rule: To show singular possession of a name ending in s or z, some writers add just an apostrophe, while others also add another s. See Rules 1b and 1c of Apostrophes for more discussion. Examples include Bill Williams' car OR Bill Williams's car, Mrs. Sanchez's children. Rule: To show plural possession of a name ending in s, ch, or z, form the plural first; then immediately use the apostrophe. Examples are the Williamses' car, the Birches' house, and the Sanchezes' children. Please see our post Using Apostrophes with Last Names Ending in s, ch, or z, which provides more discussion and helpful examples. Pop Quiz Choose the correct proper noun in each sentence below. 1. I'm going to marry Ms. Straus/Strauses/Straus's daughter. (Straus) 2. The Ortiz/Ortizes'/Ortiz's dog bit the mailman. (Ortiz) 3. My son can't seem to get enough of Sandi Finches/Finches'/Finch's fried chicken. (Finch) 4. The Ames/Amess/Ameses are coming home from vacation tomorrow. (Ames) Pop Quiz Answers 1. I'm going to marry Ms. Straus's daughter. OR Ms. Straus' daughter 2. The Ortizes' dog bit the mailman. 3. My son can't seem to get enough of Sandi Finch's fried chicken. 4. The Ameses are coming home from vacation tomorrow. Rule 1. Using an apostrophe to show singular possession. To show possession with a singular noun, add an apostrophe plus the letter s. Examples include a woman's hat and the boss's wife. Mrs. Chang's house is also used. When writing plurals of names that end in s, ch, z like Hastings, Jones or Sanchez, it's important to add es for the plural form, not an apostrophe alone. For example, the plural of Hastings is Hastingses, so you would say the Hastingses' dog, not the Hastings' dog. Similarly, the plural of Jones is Joneses, so it would be the Joneses' car, not the Jones' car. This rule applies to all names ending in s, ch or z. Are here. Incorrect: We visited the Sanchez's. Correct: We visited the Sanchezes. Rule 3. With a singular compound noun (for example, mother-in-law), show possession with an apostrophe + s at the end of the word. Example: my mother-in-law's hatIf the compound noun (e.g., brother-in-law) is to be made plural, form the plural first (brothers-in-law), and then use the apostrophe + s. Example: my two brothers-in-law's hats Rule 4a. If two people possess the same item, put the apostrophe + s after the second name only. Example: Cesar and Maribel's home is constructed of redwood.However, if one of the joint owners is written as a pronoun, use the possessive form for both.Incorrect: Maribel and my home Incorrect: Mine and Maribel's home Correct: Maribel's and my home!Incorrect: he and Maribel's home Incorrect: him and Maribel's home Correct: his and Maribel's home!Incorrect: you and Maribel's home Incorrect: yours and Maribel's home Correct: Maribel's and your homeNote: As the above examples demonstrate, when one of the co-owners is written as a pronoun, use possessive adjectives (my, your, her, our, their). Avoid possessive pronouns (mine, yours, hers, ours, theirs) in such constructions.It should be mentioned that compound possessives are often clunky as well as confusing. For instance, a picture of her and Cesar's house could refer to a photo of "her" in front of the house that Cesar owns or a photo of the house that she and Cesar co-own. Big difference. Such ambiguous sentences should just be rewritten. Rule 4b. In cases of separate rather than joint possession, use the possessive form for both.Examples: Cesar's and Maribel's homes are both lovely. They don't own the homes jointly. Cesar and Maribel's homes are both lovely. The homes belong to both of them. Rule 5. Use an apostrophe with contractions. The apostrophe is placed where a letter or letters have been removed.Examples: Doesn't, it's, 'tis, can't, you'd, should've, rock 'n' roll, etc. Incorrect: Does 'nt Rule 6. There are various approaches to plurals for abbreviations, single letters, and numerals. Many writers and editors prefer an apostrophe after single capitalized letters. (See Rule 2b. in regard to single lowercase letters.) Example: I made straight A's.With groups of two or more capital letters, apostrophes seem less necessary.Examples: There are two new MPs on the base. He learned his ABCs.She consulted with three M.D.s. Some write M.D.'s to give the s separation from the second period. There are different schools of thought about years and decades. The following examples are all in widespread use.Examples: the 1990s the 1990's the '90s the 90'sAwkward: the '90's Rule 7. Amounts of time or money are sometimes used as possessive adjectives that require apostrophes.Incorrect: three days leave Correct: three days' leave Incorrect: my two cents worth Correct: my two cents' worth Rule 8. The personal pronouns hers, ours, yours, theirs, its, whose, and the pronoun oneself never take an apostrophe.Examples: Feed grain to a horse for its health benefits, rather than relying on incorrect practices.