



## All About Apostrophes

- Information, Question and Answer Card

all about  
apostrophes

showing ownership and inclusion  
through abbreviation

Punctuation Worksheet

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## Learner Guide

The **Apostrophes** Information, Question and Answer card set is designed to illustrate the common ways writers use apostrophes and how learners can use them in their writing. It reveals how apostrophes are used to abbreviate words and to show inclusion.

### How to use this Punctuation Worksheet

The cards are sequenced to develop and extend knowledge - scaffolding the learner's knowledge and skill level from Beginner level (Year 7) to Advanced (Year 12 and beyond).

The first set of questions on the Question Card are intended for learners new to the concept, strategy or process, and the final set of questions at the bottom-half of each Question Card are designed for more advanced learners.

The Cards are also fully aligned to the **Australian Curriculum**: English strand:

- **Language** – Language Variation and Change, Text Structure and Organisation, Expressing and Developing Ideas, Phonics and Word Knowledge
- **Literacy** – Texts in Context, Creating Texts

The following provides the **teaching process** that you can use when working with students:

1. **Introduce the concept, strategy or process** to the learner
2. **Read the Information Card** and then **discuss the concept, strategy or process** with the learner
3. **Answer questions** on the Question Card, choosing to complete either the whole card, or only the first series of questions, depending on the learners ability
4. **Compare learner answers** with the Answer Card

# Apostrophes

## What is it?



"My mother-in-law's love of shopping knows no limits."

An apostrophe is used to indicate that the speaker is referring to his or her own mother-in-law.

An apostrophe is used to **abbreviate** words. It is placed where a letter or letters have been left out. The most common use of apostrophes is in **contractions** – abbreviations that end with the last letter of a full word (i.e. *it's*, *don't*, *wouldn't*, *that's*, etc.).

**Note:** Contractions are mainly used in **written dialogue or direct speech**; it is better **not** to use them in formal writing.

1. The **possessive case of a noun** is shown by the use of an apostrophe:
  - a. In the singular, it is shown by **'s**: the girl's book, the baby's toy, the woman's dress, etc.
  - b. In the plural, it is shown in two ways:
    - I. By the apostrophe only ( **'** ), when the plural ends in **-s**, **-es**, or **-ies**: the babies'
    - II. By the apostrophe and s ( **'s** ), when the plural does not end in **-s**: the boy's shirts
2. Apostrophes are also used to show **plural forms** that would be confusing without them:
  - a. She always dots her **i's** and crosses her **t's**.

The following illustrates formal sentences that use apostrophes:

- o *It was the journalist's story, but the media outlet denied her involvement in the McDonald's event.*

# Apostrophes question card

Now that you have read the information card on **Apostrophes**, it is time to practice what you have learnt.

1 Rewrite each sentence, putting an **apostrophe** in the appropriate place/s. (Add –s if necessary).

- a) Mrs Diazs dog is lying on her patio.
- b) All my friends parents let them go out when they want to.
- c) I want to go on holiday with my best friends family.
- d) The James cat is sitting on the window sill.
- e) 'Its all your fault', said Jean.
- f) I stayed at my aunt and uncles place at Easter.
- g) "I wont go if youre not coming too," she said.
- h) William Shakespeares plays should be studied at school.

2 Rewrite each sentence, putting an **apostrophe** in the appropriate place/s. (Add –s if necessary).

- a) Lifelines counselling services are a valuable source of help for people in need.
- b) 'Someones let out the canary; its not in its cage,' exclaimed Peters friend.
- c) 'Grans very old but shell always try something new,' laughed Margarets mum.
- d) Sarahs mangoes were riper than Tammys.
- e) There are strict safety requirements for babies toys.
- f) The spectators lives could be at risk at the Crows Point section of the Indy car race.
- g) Metro-Goldwyn-Mayers is relieved after the record-breaking profits produced by The Hobbits success.
- h) Shes relieved to hear that Dr Robertsons diagnosis was incorrect, and shell be out of hospital soon.

# Apostrophes answer card

Now that you have completed the question card on **Apostrophes**, it is time to check your answers.

## 1 Answers

- a) Mrs **Diaz's** dog is lying on her patio.
- b) All my **friends'** parents let them go out when they want to.
- c) I want to go on holiday with my best **friend's** family. (Or best friends' if more than one best friend)
- d) The **James'** (or **James's**) cat is sitting on the window sill.
- e) '**It's** all your fault', said Jean.
- f) I stayed at my aunt and **uncle's** place at Easter.
- g) 'I **won't** go if **you're** not coming too'.
- h) William **Shakespeare's** plays should be studied at school.

## 2 Answers

- a) **Lifeline's** counselling services are a valuable source of help for people in need.
- b) '**Someone's** let out the canary; **it's** not in its cage'.
- c) '**Gran's** very old but **she'll** always try something new'.
- d) **Sarah's** mangoes were riper than **Tammy's**.
- e) There are strict safety requirements for **babies'** toys.
- f) The **spectators'** lives could be at risk at the **Crow's** (or **Crows'**) Point section of the Indy car race. (Or Crows Point if official style for place names is to omit the apostrophe)
- g) **Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's** is relieved after the record-breaking profits produced by **The Hobbit's** success.
- h) She's relieved to hear that Dr **Robertson's** diagnosis was incorrect, and **she'll** be out of hospital soon.