The Apostrophe

What is an apostrophe?
An apostrophe (') is a punctuation mark. It has two main jobs.

1 To Show Ownership (Possession)

Use an apostrophe to show that something belongs to someone.

Examples

The dog's bone

Sarah's bag

The boy's bicycle

The cat's tail

Remember: If one person or one thing owns something, add 's.

2 To Show Missing Letters (Contractions)

An apostrophe can replace missing letters when two words are joined together.

Examples

I am →	I'm
Do not →	Don't
Cannot →	Can't
She is →	She's
They are →	They're
We will →	We'll
It is →	It's

⚠ Be Careful!

✅ It's = It is (Example: It's raining today.)

✅ Its = Belongs to it
(Example: The dog wagged its tail. No apostrophe in its when showing ownership.)

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GRADE 4 APOSTROPHE NOTES: MASTERING POSSESSION!

SPECIAL RULE: PLURAL WORDS ENDING IN S

If a word is already **PLURAL** and ends in **S**, **JUST ADD AN APOSTROPHE** at the end!

SINGULAR (one owner)	vs	PLURAL (many owners, ending in S)
A teacher's desk		Many teachers' desks

The teacher's desk	The teachers' desks
	JUST ADD AN APOSTROPHE

The baby's cry
The babies' cries

The dog's bone
The dogs' bones

The boy's shoes
The boys' shoes

WATCH OUT!
POSSESSION vs. CONTRACTION

Possession:		Contraction:
The cat's toys (the toys belong to the cat)	vs.	The cat's playing (the cat is cat is + is)

Always check what the word means in the sentence!

You can do it!
Be an Apostrophe Expert!

Created by Mrs. Davis's Class

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Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Apostrophe Challenge: Grade 4 Practice

1 Section 1: Possession & Contractions (Ownership & Apostrophe-S / It is)

1. I saw my _____ new hat.
2. She said she _____ come. (cannot)
3. The cat chased _____ own tail.
4. _____ very cold outside. (It is)
5. The tail belongs to the dog. It is the _____ tail.
6. A spider has eight long _____. (plural, possessive)
7. Please bring _____ books to the desk. (possessive)
8. We _____ finished our work yet. (are not)
9. That's the house belonging to Mr. Smith. It's Mr. _____ house.
10. The pencils belong to the student. They are the _____ pencils.

2 Section 2: Possession & Contractions (Ownership & Do not / They are)

11. _____ going to the park today. (I am)
12. The book belongs to Sarah. It is _____ book.
13. The bicycle belongs to the boy. It is the _____ bike.
14. They _____ like spaghetti. (do not)
15. (NEW) My parents said we _____ allowed. (were not)
16. These are the toys that belong to the children. They are the _____ toys.
17. The teacher has written my grade. This is the _____ grade.
18. The bird has built its nest. It is the _____ nest.
19. (NEW) _____ very hungry! (They are)

Good Luck!

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