

ENGLISH · Y2-Y4

# Apostrophes

Contraction and possession

## Two uses of the apostrophe

Apostrophes have only two jobs. (1) **CONTRACTION**: shows where letters have been removed when two words are joined: do not → don't, I am → I'm, she has → she's. (2) **POSSESSION**: shows that something belongs to someone: Sarah's bag, the dog's bowl. For singular things, the apostrophe goes **BEFORE** the s. For plural things ending in s, the apostrophe goes **AFTER** the s: the boys' coats (multiple boys).

## Set 1: Make the contraction

1. do not = \_\_\_\_
2. I am = \_\_\_\_
3. she is = \_\_\_\_
4. they are = \_\_\_\_
5. cannot = \_\_\_\_
6. it is = \_\_\_\_
7. we will = \_\_\_\_
8. you have = \_\_\_\_
9. should not = \_\_\_\_
10. he would = \_\_\_\_

## Set 2: Add the apostrophe (singular possession)



1. 1. The dogs lead. (one dog)
2. 2. Sarahs phone.
3. 3. The cats whiskers. (one cat)
4. 4. My mums car.
5. 5. The teachers desk. (one teacher)
6. 6. Toms football.
7. 7. The childs toy. (one child)
8. 8. James's car.

### Set 3: Singular or plural possession?

1. 1. The boys coats hung on the pegs. (multiple boys)
2. 2. The girls hair was tied back. (one girl)
3. 3. The childrens shoes were muddy. (multiple children)
4. 4. The teachers offices were upstairs. (multiple teachers)
5. 5. The babys bottle. (one baby)
6. 6. The dogs barked loudly. (multiple dogs — but no possession here!)

### Answer key

Set 1: 1. don't 2. I'm 3. she's 4. they're 5. can't 6. it's 7. we'll 8. you've 9. shouldn't 10. he'd

Set 2: 1. dog's 2. Sarah's 3. cat's 4. mum's 5. teacher's 6. Tom's 7. child's 8. James's (or James')

Set 3: 1. boys' coats 2. girl's hair 3. children's shoes 4. teachers' offices 5. baby's bottle 6. NO apostrophe — 'dogs' is just a plural, not possession.

