

Apostrophes are used in two common ways: connecting two words and leaving out a letter or using the possessive form of the noun.

Connecting two words

- Apostrophes can combine two words show that there is a letter missing
- Also known as contractions
 - Ex. I am = I'm
 - Ex. You are = You're
 - Ex. Do not = Don't
 - Ex. She will = She'll
- Be careful not to confuse a contraction for a possessive pronoun
 - Ex. It's (It is- contraction) vs. Its (possessive pronoun)

When in doubt... replace the contraction with the two words it is made up of and see if it makes sense

Possessive form of nouns

- Ownership
- For the singular form of a noun, add 's
 - Ex. The teacher's computer
 - Ex. Daniel's house
- For the plural form of a noun that doesn't end in s, add 's
 - Ex. The children's toys
- For the plural form of a noun that ends in s, add '
 - Ex. The workers' desk
 - Ex. The students' homework
- For compound words, add 's to the last word only
 - Ex. My father-in-law's car
- For joint possession, add 's to the last word only
 - Ex. Tim and Sarah's house

When in doubt... insert "of the" to your phrase.

- Ex. The teacher's computer = the computer of the teacher
- Ex. The children's toys = the toys of the children
- Ex. Tim and Sarah's house = the house of Tim and Sarah

Now that you have learned the different uses of apostrophes, complete the following exercise by picking the correct word to fill in the blank.

1. _____ computer is the one on the table.
 - A. Daniels
 - B. Daniel's
 - C. Daniels'
2. Many of the _____ desks are covered in papers.
 - A. Students

- B. Student's
- C. Students'

3. I am going to drive _____ car to school today.

- A. Your
- B. You're

4. _____ and _____ new car is red.

- A. Tim's and Sarah's
- B. Tims and Sarahs
- C. Tim and Sarah's

5. _____ half past noon.

- A. Its
- B. It's

6. Whose pen is this? _____ mine.

- A. Its
- B. It's

7. _____ going to the concert tomorrow?

- A. Whose
- B. Who's

For questions 8-15 write the contraction that combines the two words in parenthesis.

8. _____ (She will) be in class tomorrow.

9. _____ (Do not) call me after 1 PM because I will be in class.

10. _____ (I am) going to the beach next week.

11. _____ (I will) let you know when i'm available to get lunch.

12. We _____ (are not) allowed to bring our dog to the beach house.

13. I _____ (have not) been to California.

14. The test _____ (is not) going to be too hard.

15. We _____ (were not) at the house when the package was delivered.

Answer Key:

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. B

8. She'll
9. Don't
10. I'm
11. I'll
12. Aren't
13. Haven't
14. Isn't
15. Weren't