

17.9 The Apostrophe

Apostrophes with Possessive Nouns

Use the following rules to form the possessives of nouns:

FORMING POSSESSIVE NOUNS	
Add an apostrophe and -s to show the possessive of most singular nouns.	a girl's notebook the inventor's sketch
Add an apostrophe to show the possessive case of plural nouns ending in -s or -es.	three girls' notebooks the nurses' passes
Add an apostrophe and -s to show the possessive case of plural nouns that do not end in -s or -es.	the children's toys three men's watches
Make the last word in a compound noun possessive.	Red Cross's volunteers station wagons' drivers
Treat time and amount like other possessives.	a month's vacation two months' vacation

Joint and individual Ownership

To show joint ownership, add an apostrophe and -s to the last noun of a series. To show individual ownership, add an apostrophe and -s at the end of each noun in a series.

Joint Ownership	Keller and Schraidt's two-family house
Individual Ownership	Karen's, Sue's, and Pam's reports

EXERCISE A: Writing Possessive Forms. Write the possessive form in the space provided.

EXAMPLE: the stereo of my cousin my cousin's stereo

- the books of the women _____
- a vacation for a week _____
- the campus of City College _____
- the career of an actress _____
- the children of Ken and Pam _____
- the worth of two dollars _____
- the coats of Jim and Susan _____
- the absences of pupils _____
- the textbook of my sister _____
- the pizza of my father-in-law _____

EXERCISE B: Using Possessives. Add an appropriate possessive noun to each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Mrs. Johnson's car wouldn't start Monday morning.

- The next meeting of the photography club will be at _____ house.
- _____ speech was by far the best we heard today.
- His _____ response was not what he had hoped for.
- Three _____ names were mentioned in the article.
- She put the saddle on the _____ back.

17.9 The Apostrophe

Apostrophes with Pronouns

Use an apostrophe and an *s* with indefinite pronouns to show possession. Do not use an apostrophe with possessive forms of personal pronouns. Personal pronouns are already possessive.

POSSESSIVE FORMS OF PRONOUNS		
Indefinite		Personal
someone's	one another's	my, mine, our, ours
everybody's	one's	your, yours
anyone's	each other's	his, her, hers, its, their, theirs

EXERCISE A: Using Apostrophes Correctly with Pronouns. Underline the correct pronoun in each set of parentheses.

EXAMPLE: The tree has lost two of (it's, its) lower branches.

- I lost my camera, but I borrowed (theirs, their's).
- Our teacher was pleased with (everyones', everyone's) success.
- Did you try to get (somebody elses', somebody else's) opinion?
- I don't know too much about (their, they're) new schedule.
- It is important to respect (one's, ones') country.
- (Someone else's, Someone elses') record collection was taken, not mine.
- This set of notes probably belongs to (her, her's).
- The grizzly bear carefully protected (its, it's) lair.
- You received Steve's birthday card, but did you get (ours, our's)?
- We looked at (one another's, one anothers') photograph albums.

EXERCISE B: Writing Sentences with Pronouns. Use each set of words to write an original sentence showing possession with pronouns.

EXAMPLE: someone-game Someone's game was found yesterday.

- everybody-favorite _____
- its-killens _____
- anyone-sterco _____
- his-answer _____
- someone else-house _____
- theirs-jackets _____
- one-success _____
- our-request _____
- another-jewelry _____
- hers-skates _____

Underlining and Other Uses of Quotation Marks

Underline:

Underline the titles of books, plays, long poems, magazines, movies, radio and TV series, long musical compositions, CDs and art. Note that underlining can be replaced by using italics when typing.

WORKS THAT ARE UNDERLINED:

Book: The Wizard of Oz Movie: Saving Private Ryan

Magazine: Life Paper: The Detroit Free Press

Music: Vivaldi's The Four Seasons CD: Tool's Anemía

Quotation Marks

Use quotation marks around the titles of short written works and songs.

WORKS WITH QUOTATION MARKS

Short Story, "Everyday Use"

Poem, "Barbie Doll"

Chapter of Work, "Recalled to Life" from A Tale of Two Cities

TITLES WITHOUT UNDERLINING OR QUOTATION MARKS:

Do not underline or place quotation marks mentions of the Bible or other holy scriptures or the titles of government charters, alliances, treaties, acts, statutes or reports.

EXAMPLES: the Bible, the Koran the Constitution the Magna Carta

A. Punctuate the following:

1. The Wall Street Journal is an excellent newspaper.
2. Do you still study the Bible regularly?
3. I have just read Anne Tyler's novel *If Morning Ever Comes*
4. Everyone should read *The Grapes of Wrath*.
5. I think Malamud's best short story is *The Magic Barrel*.
6. I borrowed Disturbed's new CD called *Indestructible*.
7. *Star Wars* is my favorite movie.
8. *Hamlet* is my favorite play.
9. Many students love reading *The Odyssey*; I only wish we also read *The Iliad*.

Quotation Marks (II)

Use quotation marks to enclose the titles of chapters, stories, poems, essays, articles, and songs.

You'd like James Plunkett's short story "The Half-Crown."
"Youth and Age" is a poem by the Irish writer Eleanor Hull.

Words used in special ways are enclosed in quotation marks.

Ben calls the people of our town the "locals."

When a word and its definition appear in a sentence, the word is italicized (or underlined) and the definition is in quotation marks.

The word *ingress* means "entrance."

Identifying Quotation Marks

Insert the necessary punctuation in each of the following sentences. Underline any words that would be italicized in type.

1. The word enthrall means to enslave.
2. Have you ever read Dorothy Parker's poem Surprise?
3. To Build a Fire is the name of a short story by Jack London.
4. There are several short stories I would recommend, such as Lilacs.
5. In the book *The Asians* I was especially interested in the chapter The Japanese Woman and the chapter Politics in Japan.
6. The word chortle, meaning to utter with a snorting sound, was first coined by Lewis Carroll.
7. My mother calls the water fountain the bubbler.
8. The word dollop means a lump or a large portion.
9. I know you'd like Robert Frost's poem Birches.
10. Have you read Shirley Jackson's short story The Lottery?
11. What does the word ambivalent mean?
12. In British English a truck is called a lorry.
13. The poem Lucinda Matlock, from Edgar Lee Masters's book *Spoon River Anthology*, ends with the line, "It takes life to love Life."
14. Do you know what poet wrote the poem The Hollow Men?
15. Carla and Jean made up humorous new words for the old song I've Been Workin' on the Railroad.
16. Charles Lamb's essay, A Dissertation Upon Roast Pig, humorously explains why pork is cooked.
17. One meaning of the word lark is harmless fun.
18. Artistic use of lasers is described in the article Painting with Light in the magazine *Smithsonian*.