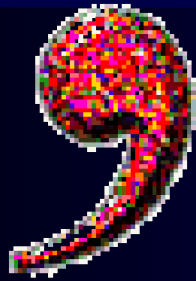


THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

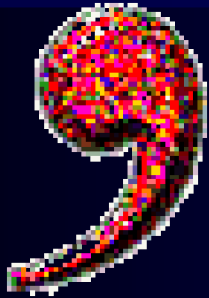


The apostrophe has only a handful of uses, but these uses are very important. A misplaced apostrophe can be annoying — not to mention lonely.

The apostrophe is used:

- 1. to create possessives**
- 2. to show contractions**
- 3. to create some plural forms**

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

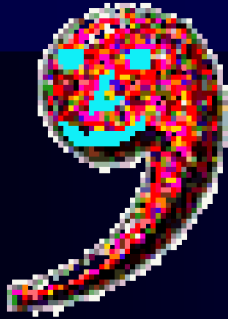


The apostrophe is used to create possessive forms for singular and plural nouns, especially nouns referring to people.

the mayor's car, my father's moustache

Pedrito's sister, Joe Kennedy's habits

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE



When a noun already ends in “s,” you can decide whether or not to use another “s” after the apostrophe.

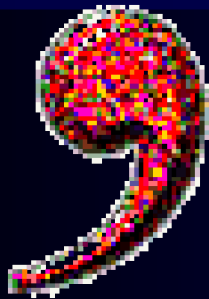
Charles’ s car **OR** Charles’ car

With multisyllabic words, don’t add another “s” after the apostrophe.

Dumas’ second novel, Jesus’ birth,

Socrates’ ideas, Illinois’ legislature

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE



To form the possessive of an inanimate object, we're usually better off using an "of phrase," but the apostrophe possessive is not impossible, especially with expressions of time and in personifications.

The roar of the greasepaint,

the smell of the crowd

a year's salary, my heart's desire, your

dollar's worth, the paper's conclusion

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

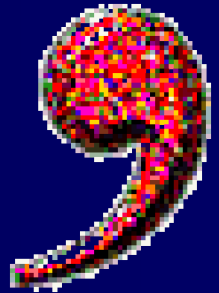
To form the possessive of a plural noun, we pluralize first and then add the apostrophe.

The Kennedys' house

The children's playhouse

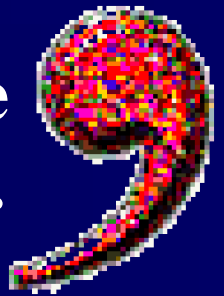
The travelers' expectations

Notice that with an irregular plural, the apostrophe will come before the "s."



THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

A contraction allows us to blend sounds by omitting letters from a verb construction. The apostrophe shows where something is left out.



← I am a student here = I'm a student here.

↘ I have been working on the railroad. = I've been working on the railroad.

They could have been great together. = They could've been great together.

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

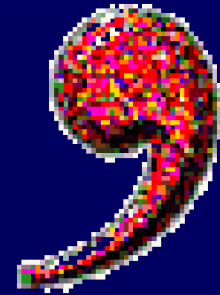
More contraction examples:

Let us go. = Let's go.

Who is there? = Who's there?

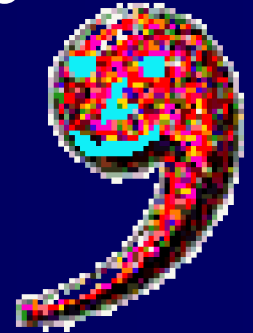
It is Dierdre. = It's Dierdre.

REMINDER: It's is a contraction for "it is";
the possessive of it = its (no apostrophe).



THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

The apostrophe is also used to form the plural of digits and letters . . .



The word Mississippi has four s's.

She got three A's and two B's last semester.

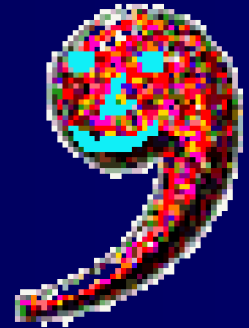
She dotted all her *i*'s very carefully.

. . . and to indicate omission of a number in a date:

summer of '99; class of '38

THE MIGHTY APOSTROPHE

The mighty apostrophe doesn't mind being used, but it wants to be used wisely.



Use it well and it will be there whenever you need it!