

Mastering the Mighty Apostrophe

Become a Punctuation Powerhouse with Max and Pip!

- **Contractions:** When two words join together, the apostrophe replaces the missing letters. For example, 'cannot' becomes 'can't' and 'do not' becomes 'don't'.
- **Singular Possession:** When one person or thing owns something, we add an apostrophe followed by an s. For example, 'Max's banana' belongs to Max.
- **Plural Possession (ending in s):** If a plural noun already ends in s, we simply place the apostrophe after the s. For example, 'the monkeys' playground'.
- **Plural Possession (not ending in s):** If a plural noun does not end in s, such as 'children' or 'mice', we add an apostrophe then an s. For example, 'the children's books'.
- **The It's vs Its Rule:** 'It's' is a contraction for 'it is'. 'Its' shows possession (like the tail of a cat). There is no apostrophe for the possessive 'its'.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'apostrophe' comes from ancient Greek, meaning 'a turning away'. It is the perfect name for this tiny mark, as it shows where a letter has 'turned away' and been omitted in a contraction, or where ownership is being marked!

Key vocabulary: Apostrophe · Contraction · Possession · Omission · Singular · Plural · Punctuation