

Mastering Apostrophes with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To understand and correctly apply apostrophes for both singular/plural possession and omission (contractions) in Year 5 writing.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of apostrophe rules. Flip to the answer side to check your understanding. Pay close attention to whether the apostrophe indicates a contraction or ownership.

What is an apostrophe used for when words are joined together, like 'cannot' becoming 'can't'? A contraction (or omission), showing where letters have been removed.	Where does the apostrophe go in the possessive form of a singular noun, such as 'the cat's bowl'? Before the 's' (cat's).
How do you show possession for a plural noun that ends in 's', such as 'the lions' den'? Place the apostrophe after the 's' (lions').	Rewrite the following phrase as a contraction: 'I am' I'm
Explain the difference between 'its' and 'it's'. 'Its' is a possessive pronoun (no apostrophe). 'It's' is a contraction for 'it is' or 'it has' (apostrophe for omission).	Where should the apostrophe be placed in this sentence: 'The teachers classroom is tidy.'? After the 'r' (teacher's) if it is one teacher, or after the 's' (teachers') if there are multiple teachers.
If a plural noun does not end in 's', such as 'children', how do you show possession? Add an apostrophe before the 's' (children's).	Why do we use an apostrophe in the word 'don't'? It is a contraction of 'do not', showing the omission of the letter 'o'.
True or False: You should use an apostrophe to make a word plural, such as 'apple's' for many apples. False. Apostrophes are for possession or omission, not for simple plurals.	Max has three apples. How would you write that the apples belong to Max? Max's apples.
Pip has a collection of books belonging to all the pupils. How do you write this possessive? The pupils' books.	Identify the error: 'The dog wagged it's tail.' 'It's' should be 'its', as it is possessive, not a contraction of 'it is'.