

Mastering Apostrophes with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To understand and correctly use apostrophes for omission and possession in Year 6 writing.

Read the front of each flashcard to identify the rule or challenge. Flip the card mentally to check the answer provided after the pipe symbol. Use these to practise your grammar skills!

What is an apostrophe used for in a contraction?

To show that letters have been omitted (left out) when two words are joined together, e.g., 'do not' becomes 'don't'.

Max says: 'It is a monkey's banana.' Is this singular or plural possession?

Singular possession. The banana belongs to one monkey.

Pip needs your help: How do you show possession for a singular noun ending in 's' (e.g., Charles)?

Add an apostrophe followed by an s (Charles's) or just an apostrophe (Charles'). Both are acceptable in UK English.

Rewrite 'I am' as a contraction.

I'm

Where does the apostrophe go for plural possession of a regular noun? (e.g., the toys belonging to the monkeys)

After the 's'. Example: 'The monkeys' toys'.

What is the rule for plural possession of an irregular noun? (e.g., the homes of the mice)

Add an apostrophe before the s. Example: 'The mice's homes'.

Is the apostrophe in 'The dog's bowl was empty' used for omission or possession?

Possession.

Rewrite 'We will' as a contraction.

We'll

Correct this sentence: The childrens toys were left in the park.

The children's toys were left in the park.

Explain the difference between 'its' and 'it's'.

'Its' shows possession (the cat licked its paw). 'It's' is a contraction of 'it is' or 'it has' (It's raining).

Rewrite 'They would' as a contraction.

They'd

Can you use an apostrophe to make a word plural? (e.g., apple's)

No. An apostrophe should never be used to make a noun plural.