

Mastering the Mighty Apostrophe

Don't get in a twist—let's keep your punctuation crisp with Max the Monkey's guide to apostrophes!

- **The Contraction Rule:** Use an apostrophe to show where letters have been removed (e.g., 'do not' becomes 'don't').
- **Singular Possession:** Add an apostrophe before the 's' to show something belongs to one person or thing (e.g., 'Pip's book').
- **Plural Possession:** If a noun ends in 's' (like 'caterpillars'), add the apostrophe after the 's' (e.g., 'The caterpillars' leaves').
- **Irregular Plurals:** If a plural word does not end in 's' (like 'children'), add the apostrophe before the 's' (e.g., 'The children's toys').
- **The 'It's' Trap:** Remember, 'it's' is a contraction for 'it is' or 'it has'. 'Its' without an apostrophe shows possession (e.g., 'The tree lost its leaves').

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'apostrophe' comes from the Ancient Greek word 'apostrophos', which means 'turning away' or 'elision'. It literally marks the spot where a letter has been 'turned away' or left out of a word!

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