



## Apostrophes

### Possessives

Possessives show the possession or ownership of a noun (the principal's office, Jane's bread, a flower's stem).

In phrases such as "a flower's stem," ownership is only loosely implied. In cases of loosely implied ownership, 's or ' is acceptable if the possessive can be rephrased into this format: *The stem of a flower.*

### Add 's when:

- The noun does not end in an s.  
Example: I walked over to the gatekeeper's cottage.
- The noun is singular but ends in an s.  
Example: Carlos's car is parked in the driveway.

### Add ' (only the apostrophe) when:

- The noun is pluralized and ends in an s.  
Example: The roses' colour brightened up the room.

### Adding 's with joint possession:

- To show joint possession when something is owned by two or more nouns, the 's or ' is added to the last noun.  
Example: Allan and Bill's project was excellent.
- To show that a possession is individual (that each has ownership of its own things) add 's or ' after each noun.  
Example: The trees' and the bushes' foliage is beautiful this fall.

### Using compound nouns:

- Compound nouns are nouns that are made up of two or more words. They can appear in the form of one word, two words, or hyphenated words. Use the 's or ' after each noun.  
Examples: The keyboard's "Enter" key was stuck.  
Why is the post office's door locked?  
Her brother-in-law's date was early.

## Other Apostrophe Uses

### Showing Contractions:

A contraction is two words that are joined by an apostrophe (ex. don't, wouldn't, that's, what's, and who's). The contraction's apostrophe **always** takes the place of the missing letter(s).

### Remember:

*It's* means *it is* or *it has*, but *its* shows possession.