

An apostrophe is used to show that something belongs to someone, something or somewhere.

1. The possessive 's is added to singular words (referring to one item) e.g.

the girl's shoes	means the shoes belonging to the girl
Mrs Jones's shop	the shop belonging to Mrs Jones
the man's jumper	the jumper belonging to the man
the jumper's sleeves	the sleeves of the jumper

2. For plural words (referring to more than one item) only the apostrophe ' is added, because the plural word already ends in s, e.g.

the girls' shoes	the shoes belonging to the girls
the cities' cinemas	the cinemas in the cities

3. **BUT** if the plural doesn't end in s, then put 's at the end of the word, e.g.

the men's jumpers	the jumpers belonging to the men
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4. An apostrophe is used to show where one or more letters have been missed out in words and phrases that have been shortened, forming a contraction, e.g.

five o'clock	is short for five of the clock
isn't it	is not it
she wasn't at home	she was not at home
we'll see	we shall see

Now put apostrophes in the correct place in the following sentences.

- a. Heres the butchers shop I told you about.
- b. The café doesnt open until ten oclock.
- c. The boys toy car was in the cupboard.
- d. This week there are new womens magazines in the newsagents shop.
- e. Well see if Mrs Taylors children want to come with us.
- f. Which letters missing from Halloween?

Teacher's answers

- a. Here's the butcher's shop I told you about.
- b. The café doesn't open until ten o'clock.
- c. The boy's toy car was in the cupboard. [Assuming one boy owns the car.]
- d. This week there are new women's magazines in the newsagent's shop.
- e. We'll see if Mrs Taylor's children want to come with us.
- f. Which letter's missing from Hallowe'en?