

When to Put in an Apostrophe and When to Leave it Out

Apostrophes are not that complicated, really.

2 reasons for an apostrophe:

1. Something has been missed out (abbreviation)
2. Something belongs to someone (possession)

Examples of **abbreviation** apostrophes:

- **doesn't** (does not)
the o is missed out
- **could've** (could have)
ha is missed out
- **I'd like** (I would like)
woul is missed out

Examples of **possession** apostrophes:

- **Jim's dog**
(the dog belonging to Jim)
- **the girl's shoes**
(the shoes belonging to the girl)

NOTE:

If the owner is plural, then the apostrophe comes **AFTER** the **s** so:

- **the girls' shoes**
(shoes belonging to several girls)

Beware it and it's

This is different because **it's** is only used with the apostrophe of **abbreviation** – for **it is**, **NEVER** for 'belonging to it.'

Sometimes when you **HEAR** an 's' it means a plural not an apostrophe.
E.g.:

Cabbages 50p each

Common mistake is to put an apostrophe here, but it's not necessary.