

Rules for Using The Apostrophe

Notes:

The apostrophe has 2 functions:

One is to show possession/ownership and the other is to show contraction of words.

1. An apostrophe shows ownership:

John's nameplates are red.

1a. These are the student's books.

Several books belonging to 1 student.

1b. These are the students' books.

Books belonging to a group of students.

My 3 handy' shirts are blue.

More than 1 shirt.

The team' Den

(More than 1 Den)

Anna' books (instead of Anna's books)

Sometimes a name ending on an s is given an apostrophe instead of an

additional s and apostrophe as seen in the name Jones. Typically both are

correct.

1c. Add an apostrophe to the end of plural nouns that end in s:

Boys' hats.

Players' uniforms

2. An apostrophe is used in contractions when a word or letter(s) is missing

2a. Don't go outside. (Do not)

I'll finish my homework later. (I will = I'll)