

Apostrophe Rules

1. Contractions: Use an apostrophe to show one or more letters have been left out of a word
2. To Form Plurals: Use an apostrophe and an s to form plurals of a letter, a number, a sign, or a word discussed as a word
3. To Form Singular Possessives: Add an apostrophe and s to form the possessive of most singular nouns
4. To Form Plural Possessives: Add an apostrophe after the s to show possessive form of a plural noun
5. In Compound Nouns: For the possessive of a compound noun by placing the possessive ending after the last word
6. With Indefinite Pronouns: For the possessive of an indefinite pronoun by placing an apostrophe and an s on the last word
7. To Express Time or Amount: Use an apostrophe and an s with an adjective that is part of an expression indicating time or amount
8. To Show Shared Possession: When possession is shared by more than one noun, use the possessive form for the last noun in the series

1. wasn't

2. A's 5's like's

3. the pirate's eye

4. athletes' coach

5. Secretary of State's papers

6. everyone's anyone's

7. a dollar's worth of candy

a month's pay

8. Tom and Jill's parents

Add apostrophes in the sentences below. On the line, write the rule number:

- _____ 1. When I heard Maria and Jennys cries for help, I knew they were in trouble.
- _____ 2. The look on the passer-bys face was strange.
- _____ 3. I think its going to rain.
- _____ 4. Do you cross all your 7s?
- _____ 5. Werent you going to help your dad rake all the leaves?
- _____ 6. She thought her sister-in-laws muffins were the best she'd ever tasted.
- _____ 7. The life guard read the entire list of dos and donts.
- _____ 8. The cats ear was ragged and torn.
- _____ 9. Did you see the cut on its tail. It must have been in a fight.
- _____ 10. We have to obey the Commander-in-Chiefs orders.
- _____ 11. I think that coat is hers, but it could be Stephanies.
- _____ 12. Yesterdays news was sad. We heard that a beloved actor died.
- _____ 13. Mikes, Adams, and Bobs shirts all match.
- _____ 14. Mike, Adam, and Bobs friend met them at the movie theater.
- _____ 15. The girls bathroom was closed for cleaning.
- _____ 16. They said theyd help clean up after the party.
- _____ 17. I tried hard to eliminate all the likes and ums in my speech.
- _____ 18. My friend earned mostly As and Bs in school.
- _____ 19. Everyones eyes were looking up at the sky.

Answer Key

- _____8_____ 1. When I heard Maria and Jenny's cries for help, I knew they were in trouble.
- _____5_____ 2. The look on the passer-by's face was strange.
- _____1_____ 3. I think it's going to rain.
- _____2_____ 4. Do you cross all your 7's?
- _____1_____ 5. Weren't you going to help your dad rake all the leaves?
- _____5_____ 6. She thought her sister-in-law's muffins were the best she'd ever tasted.
- _____2_____ 7. The life guard read the entire list of do's and don'ts. (Note: If two apostrophes are required for the same word, omit the second apostrophe. Don'ts)
- _____3_____ 8. The cat's ear was ragged and torn.
- _____ 9. Did you see the cut on its tail. It must have been in a fight. (No apostrophe needed. Its shows possession without an apostrophe.)
- _____5_____ 10. We have to obey the Commander-in-Chief's orders.
- _____3_____ 11. I think that coat is hers, but it could be Stephanie's.
- _____7_____ 12. Yesterday's news was sad. We heard that a beloved actor died.
- _____3_____ 13. Mike's, Adam's, and Bob's shirts all match. (Note: Each of them owns his own shirts)
- _____8_____ 14. Mike, Adam, and Bob's friend met them at the movie theater. (Note: The friend belongs to all three)
- _____4_____ 15. The girls' bathroom was closed for cleaning.
- _____1_____ 16. They said they'd help clean up after the party.
- _____2_____ 17. I tried hard to eliminate all the like's and um's in my speech.
- _____2_____ 18. My friend earned mostly A's and B's in school.
- _____6_____ 19. Everyone's eyes were looking up at the sky.

they're/there/their and its/it's practice

1. I think _____ going to have a pet sitter
instead of putting _____ dog in the kennel.
they're/there/their
they're/there/their
2. Please put _____ coats over _____.
they're/there/their
they're/there/their
3. Sometimes _____ not enough to know what things mean,
sometimes you have to know what things don't mean.
its/it's
4. Did you see the look in _____ eyes?
its/it's
5. _____ water bowl was empty.
its/it's
6. Tell me if _____ okay to leave.
its/it's
7. Don't set the book down in that wet spot. I don't want _____
cover to be ruined.
its/it's
8. I heard _____ is going to be trouble.
they're/there/their
9. I find _____ taste in music is different than mine.
they're/there/their
10. _____ going to tell me if _____ camping
trip is still on.
They're/There/Their
they're/there/their

they're/there/their and its/it's

ANSWERS

1. I think **they're** going to have a pet sitter instead of putting **their** dog in the kennel.
2. Please put **their** coats over **there**.
3. Sometimes **it's** not enough to know what things mean, sometimes you have to know what things don't mean.
4. Did you see the look in **its** eyes?
5. **Its** water bowl was empty.
6. Tell me if **it's** okay to leave.
7. Don't set the book down in that wet spot. I don't want **its** cover to be ruined.
8. I heard **there** is going to be trouble.
9. I find **their** taste in music is different than mine.
10. **They're** going to tell me if **their** camping trip is still on.