

# Apostrophe Rules

**Rule #1: Do NOT use for numbers that are plural nouns.**

- Example: *I grew up in the 1990s. (not 1990's)*

**Rule #2: Do NOT use for capital letters that are plural nouns or abbreviations.**

- Example: *We learned our ABCs. (not ABC's) Jim sells R.V.s (not R.V.'s)*

**Rule #3: DO use for contractions in the place of missing letters.**

- Example: *you're (you are) don't (do not)*

**Rule #4: DO use 's to show possession when something belongs to one person or thing.**

- Example: *the hat's feather Jenny's bike the child's mother*

**Rule #5: DO use after the plural s to show possession when something belongs to more than one person or thing. Make the noun plural first, then add the apostrophe.**

- Example: *the girls' room; the children's father; the dogs' toys*

**Rule #6: DO use 's to show possession of a name that ends in s.**

- Example: *Mr. Jones's files; Texas's weather*

**Rule #7: Its and it's are special cases.**

**its = something belongs to it**

**it's = contraction for it is or it has**

- Example: *The dog wagged its tail. It's going to be warm today! It's been a long time.*