



Palm Beach Atlantic University
Center for Writing Excellence

APOSTROPHES

An apostrophe is a punctuation mark that has many uses, such as indicating who owns what. The apostrophe can also make pronouns into verbs, replace syllables or letters, and create plurals.

Possessive Nouns

- In possessive nouns, the 's is used to indicate ownership.
Example:
 - The cat is Suzy's.
 - This is Anna's bedroom.
 - The children's section is this way.
- If the noun ends in s, add the apostrophe at the end.
Example:
 - The girls' room is pink.
 - My parents' house is big.
- If you have two nouns that possess something, use the last noun and change it to possessive.
Example:
 - Jill and Amy's apartment is really small.
 - It is Tom and Dave's birthday today.

Possessive Pronouns

- Possessive pronouns do not need an apostrophe.
Example:
 - That dog is his.
 - Whose backpack is that?

Indefinite Pronouns

- Indefinite pronouns (like someone, anyone, another, etc.) show possession with an 's.
Example:
 - Someone's phone is ringing.
 - Is this anyone's purse on the counter?

Contractions

- Apostrophes can be used to replace letters or syllables.
Example:
 - Isn't (is not)
 - I'm (I am)
 - Don't (do not)
 - It's (it is)
 - Who's (who is)