

Apostrophe Rules

Abbreviation

Has a letter been omitted from conjoined words?

Apostrophe replaces missing letter(s)
e.g. cannot = **can't**,
it is = **it's**

Don't place them on a noun just because it's been made plural and ends in s!

Is it a pronoun?
e.g. his, hers, its
If so, it doesn't require an apostrophe.

Singular – place apostrophe before the s
e.g. the **boy's** work

Regular = place the apostrophe after the s
e.g. the **boys'** work

Possession

Is one thing indicated as belonging to another?
Usually marked by nouns noun

Is belonging attributed to one person or thing (singular) or more than one (plural)?

Is the plural form regular or irregular?

Irregular – apostrophe remains before the s
e.g. the **children's** work