

Apostrophes

There are two main uses of apostrophes in writing:

- 1) To stand for missing letters in contracted words (e.g. can't)
- 2) To show ownership. If the item belongs to one person, the apostrophe goes before the "s" (e.g. the man's coat). If it belongs to more than one person the apostrophe goes after the "s" (e.g. the girls' toilets).

Beware of putting apostrophes into plurals (e.g. pencil's), it is not necessary!

Put the missing apostrophes into these sentences (IF THEY NEED ONE!)

- 1) The dogs tail was wagging as he lay by the fire.
- 2) Katies cat was not well.
- 3) "I wouldnt do that if I was you," said mum.
- 4) David bought some bananas and apples at the shop.
- 5) Kens watch was very expensive.
- 6) Jan couldnt find her favourite socks.
- 7) The boys ball rolled down the hill, they had to run fast to catch it.

Now find all the apostrophes in this passage:

On Monday, Johns mum woke him up for school as usual, he had porridge and apples for breakfast. He couldnt wait for school as he was going on a trip to the towns museum and didnt want to be late. He grabbed his coat, patted the dogs ears and took his sisters hand as he ran for the bus.