Apostrophes

The apostrophe has two primary functions:

1) to show possession of a noun
2) to show the omission of letters

1) to show possession of a noun

• add 's to the singular form of the word (even if it ends in -s):
  I drive near the president’s house every day.
  I like James's car.

• add ' to the end of plural nouns that end in -s:
  These are my sisters’ dresses.
  These are my friends’ pencils.

• add 's to the last noun to show joint possession of an object:
  We are at Todd and Anne's apartment.

Note: Apostrophes should not be used with possessive pronouns because possessive pronouns already show possession -- they don't need an apostrophe. His, her(s), its, my, mine, your(s), our(s), their(s) are all possessive pronouns.

Note: As a general rule, if the possessive noun is an inanimate object (not living, no causal agency) then no apostrophe is needed. There are exceptions to this rule, however.

Example: That is the door of the car. → That is the car door.

In the example, notice that the car does not need a possessive apostrophe because it is an inanimate object.

Directions: Change the “______ of ______” phrases into possessive noun phrases using an apostrophe.

Example: That is the house of David. → That is David’s house.

1) This is the shoe of the girl. → ____________________________.

2) We are at the room of the hotel. → ____________________________.

3) He is the son of Marcus. → ____________________________.

4) This is the house of Julie and Juan. → ____________________________.
2) to show the omission of letters and to form contractions

- Apostrophes are used to show any omission of letters in a word.

- Apostrophes are also used to form contractions. A contraction is a combination of two words which results in a single word. The apostrophe is used where letters have been omitted. Contractions are common in speaking and in informal writing.

- Here are some examples of contractions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>+ to be</th>
<th>+ would</th>
<th>+ will</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>I am</td>
<td>I’d</td>
<td>I’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you are</td>
<td>you’d</td>
<td>you’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>we</td>
<td>we are</td>
<td>we’d</td>
<td>we’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td>they are</td>
<td>they’d</td>
<td>they’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>he is</td>
<td>he’d</td>
<td>he’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she</td>
<td>she is</td>
<td>she’d</td>
<td>she’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it</td>
<td>it is</td>
<td>it’d</td>
<td>it’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there</td>
<td>there is:</td>
<td>there’d</td>
<td>there’ll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>that is</td>
<td>this’d</td>
<td>this’ll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** the only time you need to use an apostrophe for “it is” is when forming the contraction “it’s”. “Its” (with no apostrophe) is used to show possession.

**Directions:** Use apostrophes in the following sentences to make contractions.

**Example:** I am your friend. → I’m your friend.

1) I do not like vanilla ice cream. → __________________________.

2) I am going to the mall. → __________________________.

3) Who is the new student? → __________________________.

4) They are my best friends. → __________________________.
5) We are not waiting in the line. → ________________________________.
6) She will be the class president. → ________________________________.
7) He should not worry so much. → ________________________________.
8) They will be here in fifteen minutes. → ________________________________.
9) Where is my blue book? → ________________________________.
10) She does not eat spinach. → ________________________________.

Directions: Use what you have learned to punctuate the following sentences with apostrophes.

Example: Where is the book of John? → Where’s John’s book?

1) This is not the key I was looking for.
                             ________________________________.

2) I want to pet the head of the dog.
                             ________________________________.

3) That is the hat of Jones.
                             ________________________________.

4) I need to go to the market of the town to buy milk.
                             ________________________________.

5) Did you not wash the car of Bill?
                             ________________________________.

6) This wallet belongs to Tito.
                             ________________________________.

7) This one is nicer than the one that Dan has.
                             ________________________________.

8) It is funny when the dog chases its tail.
                             ________________________________.

9) We should not take the car of my father to the beach.
                             ________________________________.

10) She is the best student in the college.
                             ________________________________.