

UNIT 16

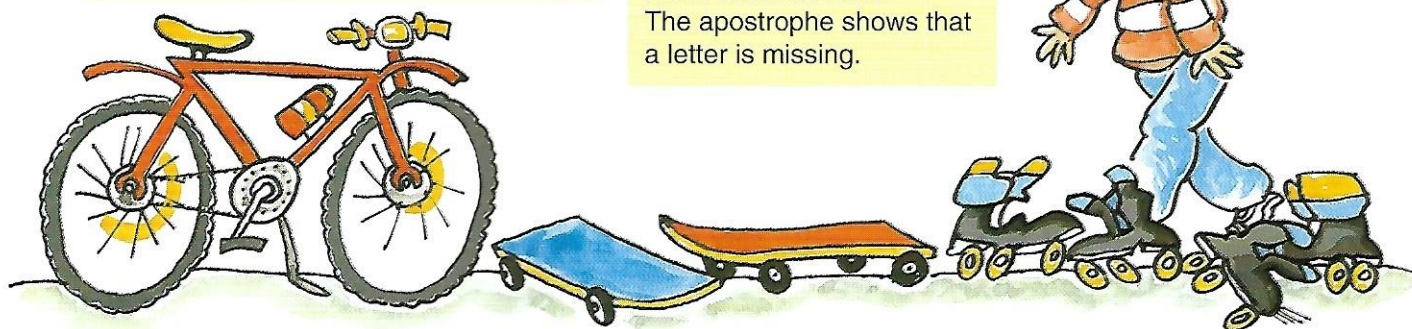
Apostrophes (contractions and possessive nouns)

There are two occasions when you should use an **apostrophe**:

- in a **contraction** (when two words are joined together and some letters are missed out)
- to show **ownership**

I'm going for a bike ride.

I'm is short for **I am**.
The apostrophe shows that a letter is missing.



the **boy's** bike

the **girls'** skateboards

the **children's** skates

This means **the bike belonging to the boy**.
When there is just one owner, we usually add **'s** to the noun.

This means **the skateboards belonging to the girls**.
When there is more than one owner, we add **'** to the noun if it ends in **s**.

This means **the skates belonging to the children**.
We add **'s** if there is no **s** at the end of the plural noun.

Practice

1. Write each of these contractions in full. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| a) I'm → I am | b) I've | c) she's | d) you're |
| e) it's | f) haven't | g) couldn't | h) wasn't |
| i) aren't | j) who's | k) we're | l) let's |
| m) they've | n) she'll | o) we'd | |

2. Rewrite each of the sentences, using the shortened form of the underlined words.

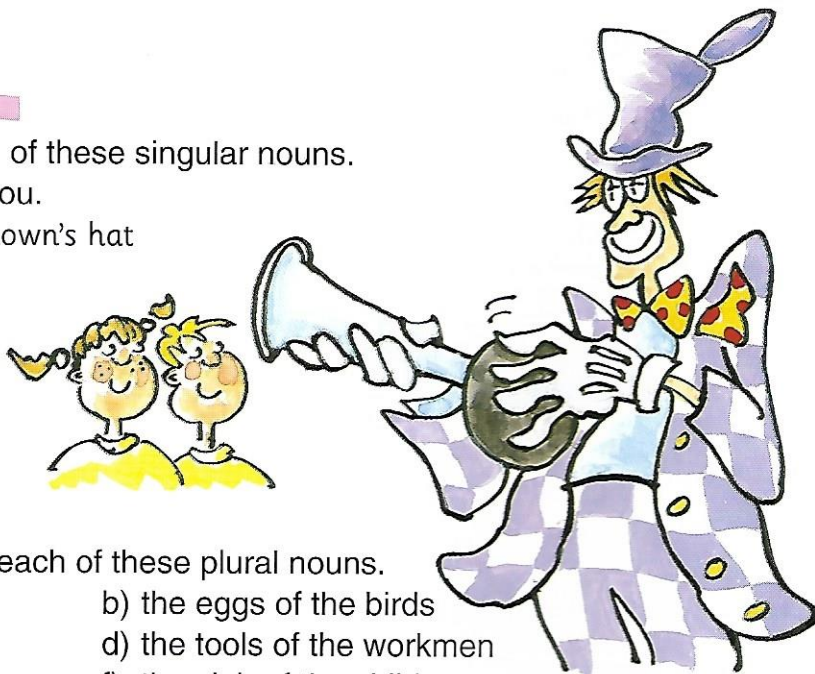
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a) I <u>had not</u> seen the film before. | b) He <u>did not</u> want it. |
| c) <u>That is</u> a good book. | d) <u>We will</u> help. |
| e) <u>You will</u> be sorry. | f) <u>Do not</u> go. |
| g) <u>It is</u> a good idea. | h) You <u>should not</u> come. |
| i) <u>They are</u> late. | j) It <u>would not</u> matter. |
| k) <u>We have</u> got two. | l) You <u>need not</u> go in. |

Making sure

1. Write the possessive form of each of these singular nouns.

The first one has been done for you.

- a) the hat of the clown → the clown's hat
- b) the antlers of the biggest deer
- c) the watch of the nurse
- d) the shell of the tortoise
- e) the tail of the tiger
- f) the claws of the cat
- g) the bike of my friend



2. Now write the possessive form of each of these plural nouns.

- a) the whiskers of the cats
- b) the eggs of the birds
- c) the den of the wolves
- d) the tools of the workmen
- e) the wool of the sheep
- f) the club of the children
- g) the paws of the dogs
- h) the manes of the lions
- i) the uniforms of the men

3. Copy these sentences. Complete each one with the possessive form of the noun in brackets.

- a) The _____ leg was broken in the crash. (motorist)
- b) The department store stocks lots of _____ clothes. (babies)
- c) Our _____ athletes always do well. (country)
- d) The _____ manes were well groomed. (horses)
- e) The _____ meeting took place after school. (teachers)
- f) We could not see the _____ flag. (ship)

Practise your punctuation

Punctuate these sentences correctly.

- 1. shanaz and ali who were playing in the park pulled a thorn out of the dogs paw
- 2. charles dickens a famous author wrote a book called oliver twist in which oliver became one of fagins thieves
- 3. dawns early light crept into the caves entrance allowing the explorers to see the paintings on the wall
- 4. my fathers job selling shoes takes him all over england
- 5. im going to take a photograph of the dinosaurs skeletons said the professor

