**Apostrophes to show possession**

An apostrophe of possession shows that something belongs to, or is somehow linked with, something else.

If the ‘owning’ *noun* is **singular**, add an apostrophe and ‘s’: **‘s**

Laura owns a mobile phone Laura’s mobile phone

there is a pool in the hotel the hotel’s pool

the idea the scientist gets the scientist’s idea

If the ‘owning’ *noun* is **plural** (more than one), just add an apostrophe after the ‘s’: **s’**

the teachers have a meeting the teachers’ meeting

the girls have a changing room the girls’ changing room

**Irregular plurals**, which do not normally end in an ‘s’ require an ‘s’ when they are the owner

the men have a club the men’s club

the people have a princess the people’s princess

**Activity 1**

Insert the missing apostrophes of ownership in the following sentences:

1. Julies mother left her purse at the grocers. (2)
2. MaryAnnes sold ladies clothing. (2)
3. The boys tent was in their sisters garden. (2)
4. Johns father lost a days pay. (2)
5. Alans familys holiday this year is to a friends house in Frances capital, Paris. (4)

**Activity 2**

Write down how you would use an apostrophe to show possession between the things in the sentences below. An example has been completed for you.

Example: Susanne owns a yo-yo = Susanne’s yo-yo.

1. The horses have saddles. 2) The joggers have blisters.
2. The television has a remote control. 4) The old men have wrinkles.
3. The students have a party. 6) The cars carry passengers.
4. The car carries passengers. 8) Andy makes a choice.

**Apostrophes to show possession (2)**

Remember, an apostrophe of possession shows that something belongs to, or is somehow linked with, something else.

If the ‘owning’ *noun* is **singular**, add an apostrophe and ‘s’: **‘s**

Laura owns a mobile phone Laura’s mobile phone

there is a pool in the hotel the hotel’s pool

the idea the scientist gets the scientist’s idea

If the ‘owning’ *noun* is **plural** (more than one), just add an apostrophe after the ‘s’: **s’**

the teachers have a meeting the teachers’ meeting

the girls have a changing room the girls’ changing room

**Irregular plurals**, which do not normally end in an ‘s’ require an ‘s’ when they are the owner

the men have a club the men’s club

the people have a princess the people’s princess

Many people have trouble when to use **it’s** and when to use **its.** Remember:

**It’s = it it** or **it has Its = belonging to it**  (exception to apostrophe for possession rule)

**Activity 1**

Fill in the gaps in the following passage with the correct form of **its** or **it’s:**

I have a sick parrot. \_\_\_\_\_\_ been off \_\_\_\_\_\_ food for days, and now \_\_\_\_\_\_ started pulling out \_\_\_\_ feathers with \_\_\_\_\_ beak. I bought some new toys for \_\_\_\_\_ cage, but \_\_\_\_\_ no better. I guess \_\_\_\_\_ time to call the vet!

**Activity 2**

Write down your own sentences which use both **its** and **it’s**.

The biggest mistake students make is to use apostrophes in plural words where they are not needed. What is wrong with the sentence below?

We have load’s of video’s.

The apostrophes are not needed as there are no missing letters, and the words are not showing that they possess anything!

**Activity 3**

Identify where below apostrophes have been used correctly, and where they are used incorrectly:

Once upon a time, when I was three year’s old, I was playing at the bottom of the garden with my sister Sally. We’d been making mud pie’s and spotting ourselve’s with mud so that it would look like we’d got the measle’s. Sally had scooped up some slithery, blobby frog spawn out of Dad’s pond. She was mixing it with weeds, rose petal’s and Dads shaving cream to make a medicine.

“Do’nt worry,” she said, “its going to cure us of the deadly lurgy!”

**ANSWERS**

**Apostrophes to show possession**

**Activity 1**

Insert the missing apostrophes of ownership in the following sentences:

1. Julie’s mother left her purse at the grocers’. (2)
2. MaryAnne’s sold ladies’ clothing. (2)
3. The boys’ tent was in their sister’s garden. (2)
4. John’s father lost a day’s pay. (2)
5. Alan’s family’s holiday this year is to a friend’s house in France’s capital, Paris. (4)

**Activity 2**

Write down how you would use an apostrophe to show possession between the things in the sentences below. An example has been completed for you.

Example: Susanne owns a yo-yo = Susanne’s yo-yo.

1. The horses have saddles = The horses’ saddles
2. The joggers have blisters = The joggers’ blisters
3. The television has a remote control = The television’s remote control
4. The old men have wrinkles = The old men’s wrinkles
5. The students have a party = The students’ party
6. The cars carry passengers = The cars’ passengers
7. The car carries passengers = The car’s passengers
8. Andy makes a choice = Andy’s choice

**Apostrophes to show possession (2)**

**Activity 1**

Fill in the gaps in the following passage with the correct form of **its** or **it’s:**

I have a sick parrot. It’s been off its food for days, and now it’s started pulling out its feathers with its beak. I bought some new toys for its cage, but it’s no better. I guess it’s time to call the vet!

**Activity 2**

Write down your own sentences which use both **its** and **it’s**.

**Activity 3**

Identify where below apostrophes have been used correctly, and where they are used incorrectly:

Once upon a time, when I was three years old, I was playing at the bottom of the garden with my sister Sally. We’d been making mud pies and spotting ourselves with mud so that it would look like we’d got the measles. Sally had scooped up some slithery, blobby frog spawn out of Dad’s pond. She was mixing it with weeds, rose petals and Dad’s shaving cream to make a medicine.

“Don’t worry,” she said, “it’s going to cure us of the deadly lurgy!”