APOSTROPHERES

An apostrophe is primarily used as part of a word with the letter s to show possession or to indicate that letters in a contraction have been omitted.

POSSESSIVES (indicating ownership):

1. In English, the apostrophe (') plus s forms the possessive singular of all nouns and the possessive plural of all nouns not ending in s.

   singular: man's role       John's party
   plural:  men's role        children's playground

2. Use the apostrophe alone to form the plural nouns ending in s.

   dogs' fur       Aguilars' house*
   boys' pants     Joneses' cars

   *NOTE: If an "s" is added to a surname to refer to the whole family's belongings or as a greeting card signature, do not include an apostrophe: ex., The Aguilars (or Smiths or Joneses) live there. Season's Greetings, The Highsmiths

3. To form the possessive singular of indefinite pronouns, use the apostrophe plus s.

   everyone's success       one's leg
   somebody's house         anybody's home

   NOTE:
   a. Use the -s possessive with nouns referring to persons and living things.

      Use an "of" phrase for the possessive of nouns referring to inanimate objects.
      Awkward: The chair's back was broken.
      Improved: The back of the chair was broken.

   b. Nouns or pronouns which modify gerunds are usually possessive.
      Mary's singing irritated Tom.
      John's laughter attracted attention.

   c. When forming the possessive, avoid unpronounceable duplication of sound.
      Awkward: conscience's sake
      Improved: conscience' sake
      Awkward: Claudins's feast
      Improved: Claudins' feast

CONTRACTIONS:

Contractions are two words condensed into one by replacing a letter or group of letters with an apostrophe. (Remember, in formal/academic writing contractions should not be used.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am</td>
<td>I'm</td>
<td>you are</td>
<td>you're</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it is</td>
<td>it's</td>
<td>he is</td>
<td>he's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>will not</td>
<td>won't</td>
<td>they have</td>
<td>they've</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>should have</td>
<td>should've</td>
<td>there is</td>
<td>there's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you are</td>
<td>you're</td>
<td>we were</td>
<td>we're</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they are</td>
<td>they're</td>
<td>who is</td>
<td>who's</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APOSTROPHE EXERCISES

POSSESSIVES I: Change the phrases below into possessives by using 's or by adding an apostrophe.

EXAMPLE: the book of the professor  the professor’s book

1. the idea of my brother ______________________________
2. the horse of the policeman ______________________________
3. the canopy of my friend ______________________________
4. the balloon of Mary ______________________________
5. the obedience of Susan ______________________________
6. the feeding of the babies ______________________________
7. the lids of the cans ______________________________
8. the sparkle of the lights ______________________________
9. the home of my nephews ______________________________
10. the car of Sue ______________________________

CONTRACTIONS I: Write the contractions for the following words.

EXAMPLE: I am  I'm

1. she is ______________________________
2. I will ______________________________
3. would not ______________________________
4. where is ______________________________
5. she has ______________________________
6. they would ______________________________
7. he has ______________________________
8. they have ______________________________
9. should not ______________________________
10. there is ______________________________

POSSESSIVES II: Change the phrases below into possessives by using 's or by adding an apostrophe.

1. the house of my grandmother ______________________________
2. the bone of my dog ______________________________
3. the toys of the children ______________________________
4. the edge of the paper ______________________________
5. the laws of the Kings ______________________________
6. the laughter of the audience ______________________________
7. the ends of the hoses ________________________________
8. the success of everyone ______________________________
9. the determination of the players _______________________
10. the oats of the horses ________________________________

CONTRACTIONS II: Write the contraction for the following words.

1. we have ________________________________
2. it is ________________________________
3. can not ________________________________
4. you will ________________________________
5. he is ________________________________
6. I would ________________________________
7. could have ________________________________
8. here is ________________________________
9. you are ________________________________
10. she will ________________________________
11. will not ________________________________
12. do not ________________________________

ANSWERS: POSSESSIVES I
1. brother's idea
2. policeman's horse
3. friend's canopy
4. Mary's balloon
5. Susan's obedience
6. babies' feeding
7. cans' lids
8. lights' sparkle
9. nephews' home
10. Sue's car

ANSWERS: CONTRACTIONS I
1. she's
2. I'll
3. wouldn't
4. where's
5. she's
6. they'd
7. he's
8. they've
9. shouldn't
10. there's

ANSWERS: POSSESSIVES II
1. grandmother's house
2. dog's bone
3. children's toys
4. paper's edge
5. Kings' laws
6. audience's laughter
7. hoses' ends
8. everyone's success
9. players' determination
10. horses' oats

ANSWERS: CONTRACTIONS II
1. we've
2. it's
3. can't
4. you'll
5. he's
6. I'd
7. could've
8. here's
9. you're
10. she'll
11. won't
12. don't