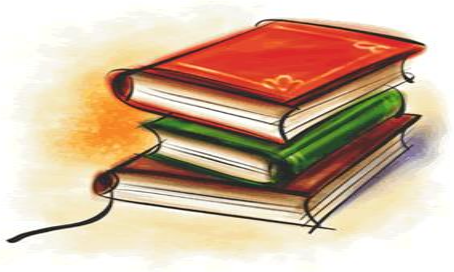
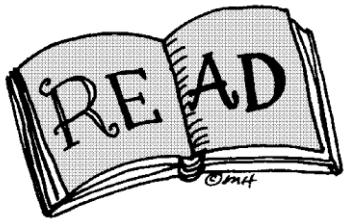
TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM

AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING COMMUNITY LIVING OUT GOSPEL VALUES

# Apostrophes



Speaking & Listening



# Apostrophes

- The **apostrophe** ( ' or ' ) is a punctuation mark, and generally serves two main purposes:

1. To show something belongs to something:

(*the eagle's feathers*, or *in one month's time*).

2. The marking of the omission of one or more letters:

(*the contraction of do not to don't*).

# Apostrophes

The apostrophe has 2 functions:

- To show that something belongs to someone. (possession)
- To replace missing letters in contractions. (Omission)

1

| A possessive apostrophe is an apostrophe which shows who (or what) has or owns something. | To replace missing letters in contractions. (Omission) |
| --- | --- |
| The pencil case which belonged to Megan.<br><br>Megan's pencil case. | • Cannot - Can't<br>• She had - She'd<br>• They are – They're<br>• He will – He'll<br>• We have – We've |

2

1

# Apostrophes

Apostrophes are used to show possession. For example:
The horse's hay (one horse)
The horses' hay (more than one horse)

**The big question is where to put the apostrophe. Does it go before or after the s? The quick answer:**
For **one** horse (or one possessor), put the apostrophe **before** the s. For **more than one** horse (or more than possessor), put the apostrophe **after** the s.

(Beware! There are some exceptions to this rule.)

1

# Apostrophes

## DO NOT USE AN APOSTROPHE S ON A WORD WHICH DOES NOT OWN ANYTHING

Example - Carrots are my favourite vegetable
Those five dogs are driving me mad

This is very, very important and the most common mistake

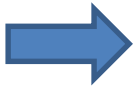
# Apostrophes

## Apostrophes for omission ’

2

To show when letters have been left out (*omission*) you have to use an apostrophe. The apostrophe is used to show where letters are left out of a word when you shorten it.

Example



I have = I’ve
He will = He’ll

**Contractions**

When two words are joined together in a shorter form.
The apostrophe takes the place of the missing letter(s).

- I am (I’m)
- They are (They’re)
- Do not (don’t)