

Varied Fluency

Step 4: Using Apostrophes for Possession or Contraction

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Apostrophes to mark plural possession \[for example, the girl's name, the girls' names\]](#)

Differentiation:

Developing Questions to support using apostrophes for contractions where one letter is omitted from one word, apostrophes for possession where the singular noun does not end in -s and plural nouns are regular.

Expected Questions to support recognising correct use of apostrophes for contractions where one or more letters are omitted from one word, apostrophes for possession where the singular noun can end in -s and with plural nouns which are regular or irregular.

Greater Depth Questions to support recognising correct use of apostrophes for contractions where one or more letters are omitted from both words, apostrophes for possession where two singular nouns are used (Max and Ruby's ball) and with collective nouns, for example: the audience's refreshments.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Using Apostrophes for Possession or Contraction

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1a. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for possession?

A) I'm going on holiday tomorrow.

B) The cat's bed was warm and soft.



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1b. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for contraction?

A) Ted said that he's going on holiday too.

B) The elephants' trunks were long.



VF

2a. True or false? The sentence below includes an apostrophe used for contraction.

The tree's branch broke off in the wind.



VF

2b. True or false? The sentence below includes an apostrophe used for possession.

We hope it doesn't rain today.



VF

3a. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The dog's bowl was empty.		
Warm rugs covered the two horses' backs.		



VF

3b. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The flowers' leaves blew in the wind.		
The chair's leg was broken.		



VF

4a. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

I think it is time to go to bed.

Write the contraction in the box below.



VF

4b. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

Tom had not really thought about how he was going to get home.

Write the contraction in the box below.



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5a. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for possession?

A) The bosses' umbrellas were lined up by the door.

B) I could've won the race if I hadn't have fallen over.



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5b. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for contraction?

A) The bus's tyre burst after hitting a bump in the road.

B) What's happened to the glass vase in the hall?



VF

6a. True or false? The sentence below includes an apostrophe used for contraction.

You'll have to hurry up or we'll miss our train.



VF

6b. True or false? The sentence below includes a possessive apostrophe used with a plural noun.

The mouse's nose twitched as he caught the scent of the cat.



VF

7a. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
James's pencil broke after falling on the floor.		
The boys' coats were used as goal posts.		



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7b. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The ladies' cars were parked on the road.		
The rabbit's carrot was very juicy.		



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8a. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

Did mum tell you that I have got to go to the shops later?

Write the contraction in the box below.



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8b. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

Dad said that I can not go to the cinema with you on Friday.

Write the contraction in the box below.



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9a. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for possession?

- A) We've reached the end of our journey now, thank goodness.
- B) Jack and Joe's painting had been completed together.



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9b. Which sentence uses an apostrophe for contraction?

- A) The team's mascot was a large, friendly lion.
- B) She couldn't remember who'd called, as she forgotten to ask for a name.



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10a. True or false? The sentence below includes a possessive apostrophe used with a singular noun.

Mr Jones's house was had been painted white and green.



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10b. True or false? The sentence below includes a possessive apostrophe used with a plural noun.

The men's boots were very muddy after football training.



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11a. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The children's books were marked correctly.		
Charles's party had been a great success.		



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11b. Tick one box in each row to show whether the apostrophe has been used for singular or plural possession.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The canvas's size was perfect for the portrait.		
The women's shoes looked very sparkly.		



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12a. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

As a family, we shall not be attending the wedding as we will be on holiday

Write the contraction in the box below.



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12b. Look at the underlined words below. Use an apostrophe to create its contraction.

Ravi will not be coming to school today as he's feeling under the weather.

Write the contraction in the box below.



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Developing

1a. **B**

2a. **False – the apostrophe is for possession**

3a.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The dog's bowl was empty.	✓	
Warm rugs covered the two horses' backs.		✓

4a. **it's**

Expected

5a. **A**

6a. **True – both are used for contractions**

7a.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
James's pencil broke after falling on the floor.	✓	
The boys' coats were used as goal posts.		✓

8a. **I've**

Greater Depth

9a. **B**

10a. **True**

11a.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The children's books were marked correctly.		✓
Charles's party had been a great success.	✓	

12a. **shan't**

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Using Apostrophes for Possession or Contraction

Developing

1b. **A**

2b. **False – the apostrophe is for contraction**

3b.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The flowers' leaves blew in the wind.		✓
The chair's leg was broken.	✓	

4b. **hadn't**

Expected

5b. **B**

6b. **False – it's a singular noun**

7b.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The ladies' cars were parked on the road.		✓
The rabbit's carrot was very juicy.	✓	

8b. **can't**

Greater Depth

9b. **B**

10b. **True**

11b.

Sentence	Singular	Plural
The canvas's size was perfect for the portrait.	✓	
The women's shoes looked very sparkly.		✓

12b. **won't**