

‘ — A — ’ APOSTROPHES

An apostrophe is a punctuation mark that can be used in a variety of ways. Apostrophes are used in three main ways: to indicate when something is possessive, to indicate when a letter is intentionally missing in a word, such as in contractions, and to indicate when something is quoted inside of another quote, where use of two apostrophes is referred to as using “single quotes.” Using apostrophes correctly helps our writing feel polished and helps our readers better understand our writing.

Let’s look at some of the most common ways we use apostrophes:

To indicate a possessive: The

Here are some examples of ways apostrophes are often used **incorrectly:**

Apostrophes should not be used to indicate something is plural.

I love to see the **horse’s** in the parade | The **ride’s** at the park are so scary!

Apostrophes should not be used before the “s” when discussing a time period or decade.

Wrong: Wow! The **70’s** were so cool! **Correct:** The **1840s** Wild West was... wild. | I was born in the **’90s**.