



*Directed Learning Activity*

**Topic: Apostrophes**

**Course: English B**

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME (SLO):** Paragraphs should use basic rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation so that the writer’s ideas are clearly communicated.


**DLA OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE:** Student will be able to identify and demonstrate correct uses of the apostrophe.

**TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: 35-50 minutes** (You’ll need to complete the independent activity IN THE WRITING CENTER, so be sure you’ve allotted enough time to do so.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Get DLA handout, look over directions, go to a work station (computer, desk) to complete the independent activity, and then sign up with a tutor to review the activity.

**INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY (25-35 minutes):**



A. Using a computer, go to <http://www.slideshare.net/saramblake/apostrophe-9324796> and watch the PowerPoint about apostrophes. (Click on the icon  for a full screen view.)

B. Check your understanding by completing the following items.

**Correction Symbol: apos**

1. What are the two main uses for the apostrophe?

Use #1:

\_\_\_\_\_

Use #2:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Give 2 different examples of contractions formed by an apostrophe:

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give 2 different examples of possessive words that use an apostrophe:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give 2 different examples of possessive pronouns that DON’T use an apostrophe:

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Practice using what you've learned by completing the attached **Practice Exercise** from *The OWL* (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue.

**REVIEW WITH TUTOR: (10-15 minutes)**

1. Correct the **Practice Exercise** using the answer sheet, and circle any errors. With assistance from the tutor, identify and review any of the rules that might still be giving you problems.
2. To reinforce what you've learned, explain to the tutor reasons for use or non-use of apostrophes in highlighted words in the attached **Review** paragraph.
3. If you have an essay from class, apply the apostrophe rules to identify and correct apostrophe errors with help from the tutor.

Student Name _____
Date _____ Tutor Signature _____

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You must complete all of the items in the Independent Activity portion of this DLA before meeting with a tutor for the Review. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

## **OWL Exercise : Apostrophes**

**Punctuate the following sentences with apostrophes according to the rules for using the apostrophe.**

1. Whos the partys candidate for vice president this year?
2. The fox had its right foreleg caught securely in the traps jaws.
3. Our neighbors car is an old Chrysler, and its just about to fall apart.
4. In three weeks time well have to begin school again.
5. Didnt you hear that theyre leaving tomorrow?
6. Whenever I think of the stories I read as a child, I remember Cinderellas glass slipper and Snow Whites wicked stepmother.
7. We claimed the picnic table was ours, but the Smiths children looked so disappointed that we found another spot.
8. Its important that the kitten learns to find its way home.
9. She did not hear her childrens cries.
10. My address has three 7s, and Tims phone number has four 2s.
11. Didnt he say when he would arrive at Arnies house?
12. Its such a beautiful day that Ive decided to take a sun bath.
13. She said the watch Jack found was hers, but she couldnt identify the manufacturers name on it.
14. Little girls clothing is on the first floor, and the mens department is on the second.
15. The dogs bark was far worse than its bite.
16. The moons rays shone feebly on the path, and I heard the insects chirpings and whistlings.
17. Theyre not afraid to go ahead with the plans, though the choice is not theirs.
18. The man whose face was tan said that he had spent his two weeks vacation in the mountains.
19. I found myself constantly putting two cs in the word process.
20. Johns 69 Ford is his proudest possession.

## Answers to OWL Exercise: Apostrophes

The following sentences are punctuated with apostrophes according to the rules for using the apostrophe. Correct answers are in bold.

1. **Who's** the **party's** candidate for vice president this year?
2. The fox had its right foreleg caught securely in the **trap's** jaws.
3. Our **neighbor's** car is an old Chrysler, and **it's** just about to fall apart.
4. In three **weeks'** time **we'll** have to begin school again.
5. **Didn't** you hear that **they're** leaving tomorrow?
6. Whenever I think of the stories I read as a child, I remember **Cinderella's** glass slipper and **Snow White's** wicked stepmother.
7. We claimed the picnic table was ours, but the **Smiths'** children looked so disappointed that we found another spot.
8. **It's** important that the kitten learns to find its way home.
9. She did not hear her **children's** cries.
10. My address has three **7s**, and Tim's phone number has four **2s**.
11. **Didn't** he say when he would arrive at **Arnie's** house?
12. **It's** such a beautiful day that **I've** decided to take a sun bath.
13. She said the watch Jack found was hers, but she **couldn't** identify the **manufacturer's** name on it.
14. Little **girls'** clothing is on the first floor, and the **men's** department is on the second.
15. The **dog's** bark was far worse than its bite.
16. The **moon's** rays shone feebly on the path, and I heard the **insects'** chirpings and whistlings.
17. **They're** not afraid to go ahead with the plans, though the choice is not theirs.
18. The man whose face was tan said that he had spent his two **weeks'** vacation in the mountains.
19. I found myself constantly putting two **c's** in the word process.
20. **John's '69** Ford is his proudest possession.

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## Apostrophe Review Paragraph

### Use Apostrophe

to form possessive: *of the person = person's*

to form contraction: *did + not = didn't*

to show omission (slang, numbers) or prevent misreading (some letters and numbers): *A's (not As), '90*

### Don't Use Apostrophe

in possessive pronouns: *theirs, whose, its (of it)*

to form plural (unless necessary to prevent misreading): *three trees, four books*

- ❖ **Activity Instructions:** Read the paragraph below. Then look at each highlighted word. Explain why an apostrophe is needed or not needed in each of the 10 highlighted words. (Note: Apostrophes are used correctly in each highlighted word.)

**Example:** No apostrophe is needed in the word "1950s" in the paragraph's title because no numbers have been left out and there's no problem with misreading.

### The Great Comic Book War of the 1950s

Many of **today's** readers of comics and graphic novels **don't** know that comic books were once the source of a national scandal. Before television emerged as a mass medium in the mid **'50s**, comic books were a popular form of entertainment in America. After World War II, comic books began to turn from **superheroes'** adventures to shocking stories about crime, vice, horror, and sex. Comics were especially popular with **America's** youth, and many people began to fear that comics were contributing to juvenile delinquency. **Parents**, teachers, church groups, psychiatrists, and politicians launched an attack on comics. Comics were burned in public. The comic book industry was compared to Hitler. Congress conducted televised hearings about the danger of comics. Certain titles were outlawed, and comic sales **weren't** allowed at all in some places. Artists, writers, editors and publishers **whose** livelihoods depended on comic sales were out of a job, and the industry was nearly wiped out. In the last 20 years, **there's** been a renewed interest in the comic book and **its** influence on today's popular culture.