

KS3 English Quiz - Apostrophes (Because of Omission) 01 (Questions)

Apostrophes because of omission are used when two words are contracted into one, for example: "it's" for "it is". The apostrophe here is termed the "apostrophe of omission" as it shows that i has been omitted.

Contractions are used in informal language and writing them down is a way of representing how people speak. The distinction between a contraction and the full form of the words can also be useful in capturing tone. Just imagine the emphasis in this sentence: "I cannot believe it". Compare that to "I can't believe it". The first sentence is more emphatic.

The most commonly contracted words in English usually involve the word "have" or the word "not", e.g.: "shouldn't", "wouldn't", "haven't", "didn't", "mustn't". With the word "not", the o is omitted and replaced with an apostrophe. With "have", the ha- is omitted and replaced with an apostrophe.

In English, apostrophes are not used to create plurals. You might see this type of thing in signs and advertisements: "apple's", "banana's" and, very famously, "potatoe's". "Apple's" and "banana's" would be fine, if used correctly: the apple's skin was shiny; the banana's peel was still bright green. "Potatoe's", on the other hand, is never correct. Instead these would be correct: the potatoes were covered in a layer of mud; the potatoes' skins were muddy; the potato's skin was crispy. "Potatoes" is plural; "potatoes'" is plural and possessive; "potato's" is plural and singular.

Have a go at this quiz and see how much you know on the subject.

1. Contract the following pair of words into one. Does not.

- Doesnot
- Does'not
- Does'nt
- Doesn't

2. Contract the following pair of words into one. Should not.

- Shouldnot
- Should'not
- Should'nt
- Shouldn't

3. Contract the following pair of words into one. It is.

- It is
- Its
- It's
- Its'

4. Contract the following pair of words into one. Who is.

- Whois
- Who's
- Whos'
- Whose

5. Contract the following pair of words into one. Are not.

- Are'not
- Arent
- Are'nt
- Aren't

6. Contract the following pair of words into one. They have.

- Theyave
- Theyh've
- The'yve
- They've

7. Contract the following pair of words into one. Must not.

- Mustnot
- Mus'tnt
- Must'nt
- Mustn't

8. Contract the following pair of words into one. They would.

- Theyd
- They'd
- The'yld
- They'ld

9. Contract the following pair of words into one. Would not.

- Wouldnot
- Would'not
- Would'nt
- Wouldn't

10. Contract the following pair of words into one. I have.

- I'hve
- Ive
- I've
- Iv'e

KS3 English Quiz - Apostrophes (Because of Omission) 01 (Answers)

1. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Does not.

- Doesnot
- Does'not
- Does'nt
- Doesn't

The apostrophe is not placed between the two words!

2. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Should not.

- Shouldnot
- Should'not
- Should'nt
- Shouldn't

Use the apostrophe only where the letters are omitted!

3. Contract the following pair of words into one.

It is.

- It is
- Its
- It's
- Its'

Be careful not to confuse "it's", which means "it is", with "its", which is the possessive of "it"

4. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Who is.

- Whois
- Who's
- Whos'
- Whose

Be careful not to confuse "who's", which means "who is", with "whose", which is the possessive of "who"

5. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Are not.

- Are'not
- Arent
- Are'nt
- Aren't

Always place the apostrophe where the letter or letters are omitted

6. Contract the following pair of words into one.

They have.

- Theyave
- Theyh've
- The'yve
- They've

Two letters are omitted here: they have becomes "they've"

7. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Must not.

- Mustnot
- Mus'tnt
- Must'nt
- Mustn't

How often do you use the word "mustn't"?

8. Contract the following pair of words into one.

They would.

- Theyd
- They'd
- The'yld
- They'ld

Similar contractions are "I'd", for "I would", and "she'd" for "she would" or "she had"

9. Contract the following pair of words into one.

Would not.

- Wouldnot
- Would'not
- Would'nt
- Wouldn't

Similarly, "can not" becomes "can't" and "could not" becomes "couldn't"

10. Contract the following pair of words into one.

I have.

- I'hve
- Ive
- I've
- Iv'e

Similarly, "you have" becomes "you've" and "we have" becomes "we've"