Apostrophe

Possessives

1. Add ’s to make the possessive form of any singular noun.
   
   Ex.: Chris’s notebook fell off the desk.

   Ex.: This year’s election was hotly contested.

2. Add ’s to make the possessive form of any plural noun that does not end in “s.”

   Ex.: The children’s toys lay scattered about the room.

   Ex.: Gloria Steinem is synonymous with women’s rights.

3. Add ’s to make the possessive form of any indefinite pronoun.

   Ex.: That memo is nobody’s business but mine.

   Ex.: Someone’s cell phone was ringing during the concert.

4. Add only an apostrophe to make the possessive form of plural nouns that end in “s.”

   Ex. Their parents’ cottage is nestled in the woods.
   (The cottage belonging to their parents is nestled in the woods.)

   Ex. The students’ opinions varied widely.
   (The opinions of the students varied widely.)

Contractions

Use an apostrophe to replace the omitted letters or numerals in a contraction.
(Note: Do not use apostrophes with possessive pronouns: his, hers, yours, its, ours, theirs.)

Examples

aren’t = are not
he’s = he is
I’m = I am
it’s = it is
let’s = let us
rock’ n’ roll = rock and roll
’70s = 1970s
she’d = she had or she would

shouldn’t = should not
there’s = there is
they’re = they are
we’re = we are
we’ve = we have
you’d = you had or you would
you’re = you are