

When Should You NOT Use an Apostrophe

1. Rewrite the phrases below to show singular possession.

A. The shoes belonging to Annie

B. The fur belonging to the dog

C. The radio belonging to James

VF

4. Which sentence is the odd one out?

A. Ellis's dad couldn't believe that the rain had finally stopped falling.

B. The mice's whiskers twitched excitedly as they searched for the hidden cheese.

C. The lionesses' cubs were hiding in the tall grass at the edge of the enclosure and the visitors weren't able to see them.

Explain your answer.

R

2. Tick the sentences which use apostrophes correctly.

A. All of the rabbit's paws thumped as they hopped down the hillside.

B. Leanne couldn't hear the teacher because Max was talking.

C. Mum put Grace's uniform in the washing after she fell in the mud.

D. The childrens coats had fallen off the pegs onto the floor.

VF

5. Harry says that the sentences below must contain a singular possessive apostrophe.

A. The cows udders were attached to the machine, ready to be milked.

B. The owls hoots echoed through the night sky.

Is he correct? Explain your answer.

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3. Rewrite each sentence below changing the singular possessive noun to a plural possessive noun.

A. The child's shoes were left on the floor.

B. The cat's tail was wagging happily.

VF

6. Use the word bank below to write a sentence using an apostrophe for contraction and an apostrophe for possession.

elephant

gently

ears

A

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1. A. Annie's shoes; B. the dog's fur; C. James's radio
2. B and C
3. A. The children's shoes were on the floor.; B. The cats' tails were wagging happily.
4. Various answers, for example:

Sentence A is the odd one out because it is the only sentence that includes an apostrophe for singular possession.

Sentence B is the odd one out because it is the only sentence that does not include an apostrophe for contraction.

5. Harry is incorrect. Each sentence could be written with a singular possessive apostrophe but they could also be written using a plural possessive apostrophe.

6. Various answers, for example:

The elephant's ears moved gently in the wind.

The elephants' ears were gently swaying from side to side.

The elephant's ears were covered so he couldn't hear.