

SPaG Task 22nd May 2020

Apostrophe or No Apostrophe

In today's task, you must identify which sentences need an apostrophe to either show contraction or possession and, if needed, add the apostrophe to that sentence in the correct place.

Contraction – Eg: He did not like fish = He **didn't** like fish.

Possession – Eg: The **cat's** tail waved in the air.

Handy Helpful Hint Number 1

CONTRACTIONS

Sometimes when we speak we are quite lazy. We don't (do not) say every word properly, but instead often slur two words together. So we use an apostrophe to show where we have shortened the words – contracted them. We should only use contractions in direct speech or informal writing.

For example:

- Do not.....don't
- Would not.....wouldn't
- Can not.....can't

The rule is that you put the apostrophe where the missing letter (or letters) goes.

Handy Helpful Hint Number 2

Possession

To show that something belongs to somebody. If the object being discussed belongs to the noun, then **you add an apostrophe before the s if it is singular (only one).**

For example:

- The dog's bowl
- The elephant's trunk
- The English teacher's chocolates
- Jim's football throw

What happens when the noun already ends in an s and you want to show that it belongs to more than one thing or person (plural) ?

Oh no. The confusion! The rule is that if the word already ends in an s, or the noun is a plural then you can still add an apostrophe and an s (as normal), but we tend to just add the apostrophe because otherwise it sounds funny.

For example:

Mrs Rees' chocolates (just try saying 'Mrs Rees's chocolates'!)

The dogs' bowl (there is more than one dog in this case, so the word already ends in an s)

The elephants' trunks (again, there is more than one elephant)