

REVISION OF PUNCTUATION

Apostrophes

A quick reminder:

There is a little symbol used in writing, always between two letters, which looks like this:

,

This is the famous **apostrophe**!

Here's an example:

*"I tell you **there's** a genie and he grants wishes," said Rex excitedly.*

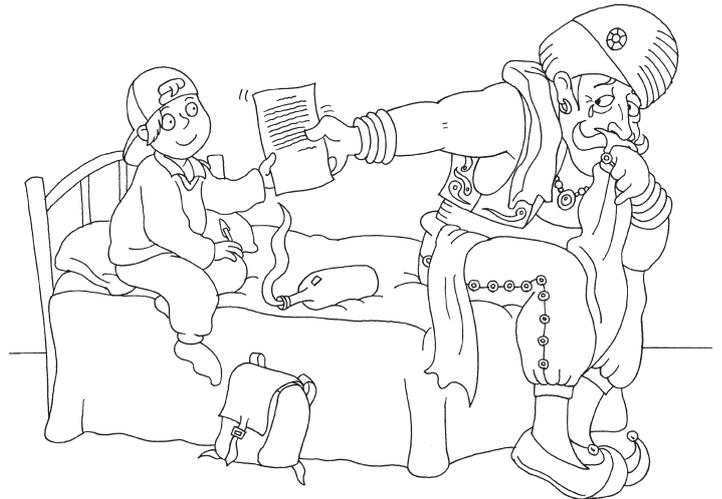
"Prove it."

*"I **can't**," he mumbled.*

*"**You're** a fake," the children called out.*

*"No **I'm** not!"*

(From *OneWish*, Fantasy Stories)



Rules for using apostrophes:

Rule 1: To show that a **letter has been dropped out**. This is called a contraction. As in these words from the story above:

There's = There is (i is dropped out)

I can't = I cannot (n & o are dropped out)

You're = You are (a is dropped out)

I'm = I am (a is dropped out)

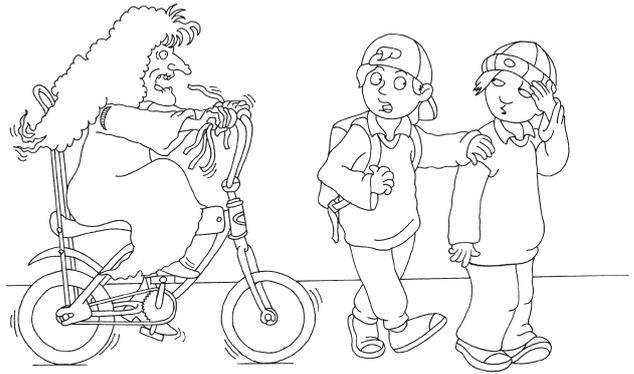
There is one tricky contraction - **will not** becomes **won't**.

Rule 2: To show **possession** or **ownership**.

I 'm a witch."

"A witch?" I said, a little confused.

*"Yes, I 'm **Rex** 's wish."*



Here, the last apostrophe shows that the wish belongs to Rex – it is *Rex's wish*.

Important things to remember:

1. Usually 's' at the end of a word means the word is plural (more than one) like

jewels scraps bottles pigs cups ears

Plural words **do not need** apostrophes. Look at how they are different:

*My **school's** logo is red and gold.*

(The apostrophe shows that the logo belongs to the school)

*My local **schools** are both very good.*

(No apostrophe – the 's' at the end of 'school' shows that there are two of them – so it does not need an apostrophe.)

2. The word '**its**' can be tricky. If it is used to show possession – it *doesn't* need an apostrophe – e.g. The dog wagged **its** tail.

BUT...if it **is** a contraction, then it **does** need an apostrophe – it's (it is)

e.g. My dog shakes when **it's** going to the vet.

EXERCISE 1

Put the missing apostrophes into these sentences about the story *One Wish*.

1. Carmen thought the bottle didnt look that special.
2. Rex couldnt wait to get rid of the bottle.

3. When Gus saw the witch he asked, "Whos that?"
4. The witchs hair was wiry and black.
5. Rex thought maybe his wish wasnt that bad after all.
6. The genie couldnt hear the childrens wishes properly.
7. Gus put the genies bottle in his knapsack and took it home to his house.
8. Gus gave up his hearts desire to fix the genies bad hearing.

EXERCISE 2

Cross out the wrong apostrophes in these sentences. Can you explain why they are wrong?

1. At the supermarket, we bought plenty of ripe melon's and pineapple's.
2. We were kept awake by the dog next door and heard it's yapping all night.
3. The class went to the art gallery to see all the beautiful painting's and sculpture's.
4. The school's in this area often have open day's early in the year.
5. Here comes Jimmy who want's to sell his bike's to us.
6. Maisy walk's her dog's every day.