



APOSTROPHES AT A GLANCE

In writing, apostrophes are commonly used to indicate possession. Apostrophes show if someone or something *has* or *owns* something. In many other languages, possession is shown using an *of* phrase (the dog of my mom). However, in English, it is more common to use an apostrophe to show ownership (my mom's dog). When deciding whether or not to use an apostrophe, use the following two steps:

1. Determine if the word is possessive by turning the phrase in question into an *of* phrase. If the word *of* can express what you're trying to say, an apostrophe is probably appropriate.
 - The car of my sister is dirty. *My sister's car is dirty.*
 - The food of the restaurant is delicious. *The restaurant's food is delicious.*
2. Determine if the apostrophe should come before or after the *s*. For singular nouns, add an apostrophe and an *s* to the end of the word to indicate ownership.
 - The carpenter's tools were useful. Miguel's sister is beautiful.If the noun is plural, the apostrophe comes after the *s*.
 - The diplomats' briefcases were full. The two teachers' classes were very different.



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