



Getting the basics right

The two main uses of an apostrophe

1. To indicate the possessive.

It was **Sarah's** pen. (singular)

It was the **girls'** dormitory. (plural)

Look at **James'** hair.

The **women's** toilet is upstairs.

The **children's** party was a great success.

2. To indicate missing letters in the middle of words.

Can't / won't / couldn't

I'm not going out if it's raining. (it is)

Who's going to come with me? (who is)

That's not what I said. (that is)

Common mistake

The dog wagged its tail.

Even though the tail belongs to the dog, this does **NOT** need an apostrophe as it is **not** short for 'it is'.

Write a sentence about each of the following pictures.

RULES

- 1. Each sentence must contain an apostrophe.**
- 2. One of your sentences must contain an apostrophe used with a PLURAL (eg the elephants' drinking hole had become rather dangerous).**



Which is correct?

- a) Bristol's harbour is one of the countrys most beautiful.
- b) Bristols harbour is one of the country's most beautiful.
- c) Bristol's harbour is one of the country's most beautiful.
- d) Bristols' harbour is one of the countrys' most beautiful.

a) Bristol's harbour is one of the countrys most beautiful.

b) Bristols harbour is one of the country's most beautiful.

c) Bristol's harbour is one of the country's most beautiful.

d) Bristols' harbour is one of the countrys' most beautiful.

a) The two boy's bags were lying at the river's edge.

b) The two boys bag's were lying at the rivers' edge.

c) The two boys' bags were lying at the river's edge.

d) The two boys' bags' were lying at the rivers edge.

a) The two boy's bags were lying at the river's edge.

b) The two boys bag's were lying at the rivers' edge.

c) The two boys' bags were lying at the river's edge.

d) The two boys' bags' were lying at the rivers edge.

a) My parent's flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

b) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas'.

c) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

d) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

a) My parent's flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

b) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas'.

c) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

d) My parents' flat is in one of the city's finest areas.

- a) The world's experts were quick to praise the two girls' courage.
- b) The world's experts were quick to praise the two girl's courage.
- c) The worlds expert's were quick to praise the two girls' courage.
- d) The worlds' experts were quick to praise the two girls' courage.

- a) The world's experts were quick to praise the two girls' courage.
- b) The world's experts were quick to praise the two girl's courage.
- c) The worlds expert's were quick to praise the two girls' courage.
- d) The worlds' experts were quick to praise the two girls' courage.

- a) The teams manager's attitude was affecting all the player's performance.
- b) The team's manager's attitude was affecting all the players' performance.
- c) The teams manager's attitude was affecting all the players' performance.
- d) The team's manager's attitude was affecting all the player's performance.

- a) The teams manager's attitude was affecting all the player's performance.
- b) The team's manager's attitude was affecting all the players' performance.
- c) The teams manager's attitude was affecting all the players' performance.
- d) The team's manager's attitude was affecting all the player's performance.

a) The Roman's bridges and roads were vital for moving the troops' supplies.

b) The Romans' bridges and roads were vital for moving the troops' supplies.

c) The Romans' bridges and roads were vital for moving the troop's supplies.

d) The Romans bridge's and road's were vital for moving the troops supplies.

a) The Roman's bridges and roads were vital for moving the troops' supplies.

b) The Romans' bridges and roads were vital for moving the troops' supplies.

c) The Romans' bridges and roads were vital for moving the troop's supplies.

d) The Romans bridge's and road's were vital for moving the troops supplies.

Think you've got it?

Try the more challenging questions on
the link below

- http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_53.htm