**Apostrophes**

1. Indicating possession

2. Indicating the omission of one or more letters

3. Misuses

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| 1. Use apostrophes to indicate possession. Examples:

This is my dad's baseball cap.I accidentally ruined the book's leather cover.When a word is plural, one must also use an apostrophe (') to show possession. If the word ends in an "s," simply place an apostrophe after it. Examples:The Jones' new dog is very friendly.Are the dresses' flowers blue?How did the twins' feet get muddy?If the word is plural but doesn't end in an "s," place an"' s" at the end. Examples:We have five syllabi; please don't change the syllabi's formats. [Syllabi is the plural of syllabus.]I have maintained the curricula's goals. [Curricula is the plural of curriculum.]1. Use apostrophes to indicate the omission of one or more letters, as in contractions or dialogue (accents or dialects).

Contraction examples:The horse doesn't want to go into the trailer. [The horse does not want to go into the trailer.] Sherry had her baby! It's a girl! [It is a girl.]Accents or dialects example:The man offered a friendly greeting, "Howdy, how are you doin' this mornin'?"1. Writers often misuse apostrophes.
	1. Do not use apostrophes for the possessive forms of personal pronouns. In other words, do not use "it's" to indicate possession because "it's" always means "it is." Examples:

Incorrect: That portrait should have it's frame replaced. Correct: That portrait should have its frame replaced.* 1. Do not use apostrophes to make words plural. Examples:

Incorrect: The Smith's are a nice family. Correct: The Smiths are a nice family.Incorrect: When they traveled in Europe, they backpacked in many country's.Correct: When they traveled in Europe, they backpacked in many countries. |

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