THE APOSTROPHE AND "S"
The apostrophe and s ('s) are used with a singular noun to show possession; also with any plural noun not ending in s: boy's, men's.
The plural possessive, when the plural ends in s, is formed by adding only an apostrophe; as in ladies' clubs.

Exercise 1: Fill the blanks with the correct form of the word given:

1. The young__________ (man) plane finally took off from Kitty Hawk.
2. The Wright ____________ (brother) plane made its first historic flight in 1903.
3. A granite monument was erected to honor the Wright ____________ (brother).
4. __________ (Bess) drawings and __________ (Louis) toys cluttered up the room.
5. The __________ (beaver) home was built early that year.
   (Meaning one beaver.)
6. The ______________ (beaver) homes were built early.
7. The ______________ (canary) food was put in the little dish beside him.
8. __________ (canary) songs keep loneliness out of many homes.
9. Bring home some companions for these ____________ (canary).
10. The ____________ (elephant) are in the parade. See that to young ____________ (elephant) trunk.
11. ____________ (elephant) trunks are strong enough pick up small boys.
12. That ____________ (boy) father is taking them all to the circus tonight.
13. ________________ (potato) are grown in Idaho, Wisconsin, and other places.
14. One ____________ (farmer) crop was all destroyed but the ____________ (potato).
15. A great deal is being done to protect ____________ (farmer) rights.
16. Buy some of that ____________ (woman) apples, for she needs the money.
17. Only ____________ (woman) clothing is sold at the new store.

Exercise 2: Supply the missing apostrophes. Underline possessive nouns.

1. Mark Twain wrote a book about Tom Sawyers adventures.
2. Mark Twains real name was Samuel Clemens.
3. It is an authors privilege to use a pen name.
4. Huckleberry Finns plans did not always work out.
5. Someone had written Beckys name in the sand.
Apostrophe Quiz

Using the apostrophe for contractions. A contraction is a way of combining two words and making one word out of them.

**Example:** do not = don't

*Note that the o of not is omitted in the contraction. An apostrophe (') is placed in the spot where the o had been to show that a letter is being omitted.*

**Examples:** should no = shouldn't ("o" omitted)
I have = I've ("ha" omitted)

**Exercise 3: Write these as contractions:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I will =</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>You are =</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Will not =</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Who is =</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>They will =</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>He is=</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>You have =</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>She will =</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>They are =</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>She has =</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>They will =</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Would not =</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Does not =</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>I shall =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>That paper is =</td>
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</tbody>
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**Exercise 4: Supply the missing apostrophes.**

1. Hell go to school in the fall.
2. Its raining.
3. Hes not here now.
4. Youre supposed to leave soon.
5. Theyre at home.
6. Whos at the door.
7. Whats that for?
8. Its hard to do homework when the television is on.
9. Shell be in Europe soon
10. Theyre going to the theater next week.
Apostrophe Quiz

Exercise 5: Defining the Possessive

A possessive is a way of showing that someone or something owns something or someone else. In these phrases, who owns what? Example: "the hat of the man" means the man owns the hat.

1. "The shoes of Mary" means ________________________________________
2. "The personality of the teacher" means ___________________________________
3. "The office of the dean" means _________________________________________
4. "The toys of the children" means ________________________________________
5. "The power of the people" means _______________________________________  
6. "The love of women" means ____________________________________________
7. "The notebooks of the students" means ____________________________________
8. "The husband of the cousin of my friend" means ____________________________

Exercise 6: Change these phrases into possessives with an apostrophe and an s

Example: the friend of my uncle BECOMES my uncle's friend

NOTE: that the owner words do not end in s.

1. the text of the instructor = ____________________________________________
2. a son of that woman = _____________________________________________
3. the daughter of that man = _________________________________________
4. the vacation of a week = __________________________________________
5. the needs of the student = _________________________________________

Exercise 5a: Using the apostrophe to show possession (in words that do not already end in s)

Example: (1) The book of my father

BECOMES

(2) My father's book

In phrase (1), who owns what? _____________________________________________
In phrase (1), what word shows possession? ________________________________
In phrase (2) how does the word father’s show possession? __________________

If the possessive does not end in an s, add an apostrophe and an s to show possession.

Exercise 6: Change these phrases into possessives with an apostrophe and an s

Example: the friend of my uncle BECOMES my uncle's friend

NOTE: that the owner words do not end in s.

1. the text of the instructor = ____________________________________________
2. a son of that woman = _____________________________________________
3. the daughter of that man = _________________________________________
4. the vacation of a week = __________________________________________
5. the needs of the student = _________________________________________
Exercise 6a: Using the apostrophe to show possession (in words that already end in s)

Example: (1) The toys of the girls
BECOMES
(2) The girls' toys
In phrase (1), who owns what? ________________________________
In phrase (1), what word shows possession? __________________________
In phrase (2), how does the word girl’s show possession? __________________________

If the owner word (possessive) ends in an S, add an apostrophe after the s.

Exercise 7: Change these phrases into possessives with an apostrophe.

1. the marks of the instructors = __________________________________________________
2. a residence of the students = __________________________________________________
3. the car of my cousins = _______________________________________________________
4. the papers of these pupils = ____________________________________________________
5. the present of the aunts = ______________________________________________________

Exercise 8: Rewrite each of the following groups of short sentences as one sentence by using a possessive.

Example: Joan has a friend. The friend comes from Chile.

Joan's friend comes from Chile.

1. Tom has a mother. His mother flies jet planes.

2. The people have a committee. The committee is making changes.

3. Linda has a child. The child is sick with the flu.

4. John has a girl friend. She knows astrology.
Apostrophe Quiz

5. Mr. Jones owns a cobra. The cobra is very friendly.

6. Bobbie has a class. Her class meets in Gould Hall.

7. My uncles have a friend. The friend has a basement: The basement is loaded with fascinating things.

Exercise 9: If the possessive case in each item in the list has been correctly formed, write a C after the proper number. If it has been incorrectly formed, write the correct form.

1. everyone's friend _______________________________________
2. bus' brakes ____________________________________________
3. childrens' toys __________________________________________
4. this school's reputation____________________________________
5. Is this sweater yours'? ______________________________________
6. Is this a girl's or a boy's school? ______________________________
7. made its way to port _______________________________________
8. tree's trunk _______________________________________________
9. Victory is our's ___________________________________________
10. a street of worker's homes ___________________________________
11. in the Brown's yard _________________________________________
12. that nation's business ______________________________________
13. women's objections _________________________________________
14. broke it's back ____________________________________________
15. travelers' passports _________________________________________
16. did it's best ______________________________________________
17. the actors' parts ____________________________________________
18. Mr. Brown's car _____________________________________________
19. the oxens' hooves __________________________________________
20. men's styles _______________________________________________
Exercise 10: In the following list the possessive relationship is expressed by means of a phrase. Change each so that the possessive case of the noun or pronoun will be used to show the same relationship. Write out your answers.

1. gloves of David and Pat

2. the locker room of the boys

3. personality of a person

4. boat of Charles

5. novels of Kenneth Roberts

6. top of it

7. a delay of a week

8. events of the day

9. wraps of the ladies

10. a wait of ten minutes

11. rays of the sun

12. shoes of the men

13. handbags of the women

14. the meaning of the story

15. the meaning of it

16. office of the boss
Exercise 11: Underline the correct answer.

1. (Its, It's) too early for lunch.
2. Is this umbrella (yours, your's)?
3. The dog has broken (its, it's) leg.
4. Surely (your, you're) not leaving yet,
5. Our house is gray; (theirs; their's) is white.
6. Both (boy's boys') bicycles were damaged in the collision.
7. (Who's, Whose) book are you borrowing?
8. Your (ns, n's) look like (m's, ms).
9. Both (boys, boys', boy's) helped me.
10. (Let's, Let's) leave after we've eaten.
11. The class of (64, '64) is holding a reunion.
12. The (Boar's Boars') Head Tavern was a literary center.
13. My neighbor should do something about his two (dog's dogs') barking.
14. My six (day's, days') visit to the beach left me dreadfully sunburned.
15. Advertisements of (men's mens') clothing fill much of the magazine.
16. After a (months', month's) illness Professor Johnson returned to campus.
17. (That's, That's) the best boat you can get for the money.
18. Yes, (its, it's) a long way to our ranch.
19. This leather jacket must be (hers, her's).
20. Are these keys (ours, our's) or their's, theirs)?
ADD APOSTROPHES WHERE NEEDED:

Exercise 12: Paragraph 1
Mrs. Bartlett is our towns strangest person. She has lived in the big house on Pine Street, without once setting foot outside, for more years than most people remember. In her yard she keeps several cocker spaniels that’ll rip a strangers pants in a second. While the regular mailmans face is familiar to the dogs, they treat a substitute mailman like a juicy bone. If the visitor is a friend, Mrs. B. (everyones name for her) will invite him or her in for tea. Her gardener, Willy, watches the dogs while the person hurries to the porch. Willys job, by the way, is also to serve as night watchman. Since hes almost seven feet tall, its not surprising that no prowlers have troubled the property. Inside the house, a maid named Tina takes coats, but she is completely close-mouthed about what Mrs. B. is like. A curiosity-seekers question will get only a scowl from her and a short, "Thats not your business." People in general seem to respect this answer, and no one has really challenged the right of Mrs. B. to live life her own way.

Exercise 13: Paragraph 2
Working as a temporary house packer for Jerrys Moving Service was an enjoyable job for me. First of all, almost no other job allows a person to go into peoples houses and see at close range how they live. I encountered a lot of interesting surprises. For example, one womans house was as neat as a display room in a museum, but her basement was as littered as our towns dump. Another person had converted a bedroom into a small library. In the room there were about seven rows of storage shelves, all filled with issues of magazines like Readers Digest and Redbook. Another positive feature of the job was the sharing of some close moments. Memories often were awakened as people helped pack up items from their past. Many couldnt stop talking once they started. I also liked this job because people would give me things they didnt want anymore. For instance, I received a lot of childrens toys and a complete set of tools. In fact, my mothers cellar started filling with items I received from customers cellars. Final benefits of the job included plenty of snacks and sodas and handsome tips when the job was over. In summary, as a temporary job, house packing was one of my favorites.
Exercise 14: Paragraph 3
In a small park near the center of Millville, a group of bronze statues stands in a circle. Most of them are models of the individual rich men who provided money for the town's beginning. The center of the circle, however, is occupied by a nameless man. Citizens call him Joe because he's a symbol of the common man. Joe's clothes appear tattered, but his body seems strong. His face looks tired, but his eyes look proud. Many people who have stopped in the small park talk about that face when they leave. Each person Joe represents couldn't give money to the town but gave strength and sweat instead. A farmer's back worked to keep the town in food. A woman's hands wove, knitted, and sewed clothes. A blacksmith's arms struggled to provide horseshoes and tools. Joe's eyes must talk to passers-by. People seem to realize that without the ordinary man's help, that circle of rich men wouldn't exist.