

Apostrophes: possessives, plurals and contractions



Rule #1



- Use an apostrophe with contractions.
- The apostrophe is always placed where letters have been removed.
 - Don't
 - Isn't
 - You're

Rule #2



- Use the apostrophe to show possession.
- Place the apostrophe before the “s” to show singular possession.
 - The boy’s hat is on the floor.
 - A woman’s bag can be one of her most treasured possessions.
 - I kicked the dog’s bone out of spite.

Rule #3



- **To show plural possession, make the noun plural first, then immediately use the apostrophe.**
 - Two girls' hats are both pink.
 - The Joneses' house is the nicest on the block.
 - Two men's shirts are at the cleaners.

Rule #4



- **Do not use an apostrophe for the plural of names.**
 - We visited the Joneses in Miami.
 - The Changs have two birds and one dog.

Rule #5



- Use the apostrophe and “s” after the second name, but only if two people possess the same item.
 - John and Anna’s home is made of brick.
 - John and Anna’s job contracts will be renewed at the end of the year.

Rule #6



- **Never use an apostrophe with possessive pronouns.**
 - That is his bottle.
 - Yours is over there.
 - Whose jacket is this?

Rule #7



- The only time an apostrophe is used for *it's* is when it is a contraction for “it is” or “it has.”
 - It's a nice day.

Questions



Quotation Marks



SESSION II

Titles



- Songs, short stories, essays, poems, episodes, and chapters must have quotation marks.

Examples:

- “Billie Jean” is a song by Michael Jackson.
- “Phenomenal Woman” is a poem by Maya Angelou.
- “A Jury of Her Peers” is a short story by Susan Glaspell.

Title Exceptions



- **Books, albums, epic poems (The Odyssey)**
 - No quotation marks
- **Branches and Trees**
 - Songs are branches of albums, chapters are branches of books, etc.
- **Branches have quotation marks; trees are either italicized or underlined.**
 - “Billie Jean” was featured on *Thriller*.
 - “Billie Jean” is the song/branch. *Thriller* is the album/tree.

Direct Quotes/Paraphrasing



- **Direct quotes are the EXACT words of someone else and must have quotation marks.**
 - “Turn your wounds into wisdom,” said Oprah.
 - Tupac Shakur said, “I’m a reflection of the community.”
- **Paraphrasing is summarizing; no quotations are needed.**
 - “I’m happy,” said Michelle. (direct quote)
 - Michelle said that she was happy. (paraphrasing)

Block Quotes



- **APA:** a quote consisting of more than 40 words
 - No quotation marks
- **MLA:** a quote consisting of four or more lines
 - No quotation marks

Block quotes never need quotation marks. Never.

Punctuation



- **Periods = INSIDE**

- My favorite poem is “Phenomenal Woman.”
- My favorite poem is ~~“Phenomenal Woman”~~.

- **Commas**

- “I see where you’re coming from,” I said.
- I said, “I see where you’re coming from.”
- “I love you,” he said, “but I won’t let you disrespect me.”

Punctuation Continued



- **Question marks and exclamation marks**
 - Depends if they are part of the quote or title
 - She asked, “Are you going to the mall with me?”
 - Do we have to memorize “Phenomenal Woman”?
- **Colons and semicolons = OUTSIDE**
 - She’s quick to say, “I love you”; however, she’s also quick to take it back.

Questions



Let's Connect



- SSU Writing Center:

Phone: 912-358-4495

Email: ssuwritingcenter@savannahstate.edu

FB: SSU Writing Center

- QEP:

Web: <http://qep.savannahstate.edu>

FB: Quality Enhancement Plan for SSU

Twitter: WriteSSU

IG: WriteSSU