

# Apostrophe Flow Chart



Use this handy flow chart to independently work out whether the word you are writing needs an apostrophe.

**Is it a noun?**  
e.g. cat London Joe

**Yes**

**No**

Do they **own** something?  
e.g. **A girl has a ball.**

Are there any **letters missing**?  
e.g. **I am** → **I'm**

**Yes**

**No**

**Yes**

**No**

Is there more than one person/thing doing the owning?  
e.g. **Seven girls**  
**Three cats**

**Don't**  
use an apostrophe

Use an apostrophe to show where the missing letter(s) would be,  
e.g. **youare** → **you're**

**Don't**  
use an apostrophe

**Yes**

**No**

Is it an **irregular plural** noun?  
e.g. **children**  
**mice**

Put the apostrophe **after the noun but before the 's'**  
e.g. **The girl's ball**

**Yes**

**No**

Put the apostrophe **after the noun and before the 's'**  
e.g. **The children's coats**

Put the apostrophe **after the 's'**  
e.g. **The cats' whiskers**

