

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**

