Apostrophes play a vital role in writing. They can be tricky, so double check every place you use them.

**Possession (Noun):**

We use an apostrophe when we want to show that an object, person or place possesses something. To do this, we add an ‘s.

**Example:** Bill’s dog is really nice.

Possessive apostrophes can get confusing when we start using them with plural nouns. If the noun we are making possessive ends in an s, then we put the apostrophe after the s.

**Example:** The trees’ leaves are falling like crazy. (As you can see, “trees” is plural in this sentence.)

If the word is plural but does not end in an s, then we add an ‘s.

**Example:** The mice’s home was warm. (Mice is already plural.)

Do not use apostrophes with possessive pronouns; they already show possession. Some possessive pronouns include: its, hers, his, their, ours, my.

**Contractions:**

Apostrophes can be used to omit letters and join two words together. Here are some common contractions:

- don’t—do not
- that’s—that is
- they’d—they would

**Plurals:**

Generally, we do not use an apostrophe to make something plural. However, there are some exceptions.

**Example:** Mind your p’s and q’s. (We use the apostrophe to show that p and q are plural to avoid confusion.)

We do not need an apostrophe if the letters are uppercase.

**Example:** My friend has two Honda CBRs.

In the case of making a numeral plural, we do not use an apostrophe.

**Example:** We have six Xbox 360s.