Apostrophes C

To form the possessive case of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and an s.

To form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s.

To form the possessive case of a plural noun ending in s, add only the apostrophe.

**EXAMPLES**
- dog’s bark
- the oxen’s food
- four brothers’ band

**EXERCISE**
In each of the following sentences, underline the noun that needs an apostrophe or an apostrophe and an s. Then, above the underlined word, write the correct possessive form.

**Example 1.** Which of Grimm fairy tales should I read tonight?

1. Jacob Grimm was Wilhelm older brother.
2. Only thirteen months time separated their births in 1785 and 1786.
3. The brothers enjoyed storytellers tales.
4. At that time, storytellers held audiences attention by telling stories aloud.
5. The brothers goal was to write down these stories.
6. They carefully recorded the folk tales content.
7. The Grimms notes for their work have been studied by other storytellers.
8. Each written story words were very close to the original, spoken version.
9. Have you read the story of Rapunzel long hair?
10. Do you know about Snow White friends, the seven dwarfs?
11. One of my sister favorites is the story of Hansel and Gretel.
12. She particularly enjoys hearing about the old woman cottage.
13. The cottages walls were made of gingerbread.
14. Many people favorite story is the tale of Cinderella.
15. Other stories appeal lies in their funny and fantastic scenes.
16. For example, consider Rumpelstiltskin promise to turn straw into gold.
17. Tom Thumb tiny size makes him another interesting character.
18. Some readers favorite stories are those that resemble their own lives.
19. A reader favorite story may present life as he or she wishes it were.
20. These fairy tales are certainly a beloved part of children literature.
Apostrophes

15s. Use an apostrophe to show where letters, words, or numerals have been omitted (left out) in a contraction.

The word not can be shortened to n’t and added to a verb, usually without any change in the spelling of the verb.

**Examples**
- I am—’m
- of the clock—’clock
- 1998—’98
- do not—don’t
- she would—she’d

**Exercise A**

On the lines provided, write the contraction for each set of words.

**Example 1.** should not

1. where is 
2. we are 
3. they will 
4. has not 
5. she is 
6. could not 
7. you will 
8. does not 
9. might have 
10. they are 

**Exercise B**

The following sentences have errors in the use of apostrophes in contractions. An apostrophe may be missing or in the wrong place. Underline each error. Then, above the error, write the contraction correctly.

**Example 1.** They’ve been reading quietly in their room.

11. There’s a hobby you may find interesting.
12. Its’ called in-line skating.
13. Why have’n’t I heard about it?
14. Here is a magazine article from October 99’.
15. You’ll have to finish reading it this afternoon.
16. I promised to meet Jessie tomorrow morning at eight o’clock and lend it to her.
17. Let’s all go in-line skating this weekend!
18. I know we do’n’t have skates yet.
19. Ben and Phoebe said they’re not using theirs and will lend them to us.
20. I think well find in-line skating difficult but fun.