

Teaching Pack

Apostrophes

Cambridge IGCSE™ / IGCSE (9–1)
First Language English



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Introduction: Apostrophes

This *Teaching Pack* focuses on supporting learners to understand the rules for using apostrophes, and to use them accurately in their writing.

The lesson presented here is designed for learners who have some understanding of the uses of apostrophes but who may occasionally make errors, especially with plurals. Learners should also be familiar with the terms possession and omission.

Learners will be familiar with writing in Standard English and should also have an understanding of how to punctuate sentences in general.

In this *Teaching Pack* we have suggested resources you may like to use as well as some worksheets and teacher notes to print off and use in the classroom with your learners.

Lesson plan: Apostrophes for possession and omission



Resources

- Cards for first activity
- **Worksheet 1:** The apostrophe for ownership
- **Worksheet 2:** The apostrophe for omission

Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson learners will:

- be able to show they understand the use of the possessive apostrophe for singular nouns
- demonstrate the possessive apostrophe in their own writing

Timings

Activity



Starter / Introduction

Task: You can use the suggestions below for this activity or you could create your own list of apostrophe sentences.

In groups of two to four, learners read each sentence and sort them into two lists:

- 1st pile – **apostrophe for possession**
- 2nd pile – **apostrophe for omission** (where the apostrophe shows that some letters have been missed out)

Zack's shoes

It's a beautiful day

The boy's tooth was aching

Don't walk on the grass

The family's car

Isn't it pretty?

The plant's roots had grown deep into the ground

The families' car

Won't you eat your vegetables?

The teachers' books were left in the hall

Amy can't go to the party

I wouldn't do that

Someone tore the book's front cover

The woman's bag was very heavy

The headmistresses' powers

There is an egg in the bird's nest.

Yusef's sister had lost the television remote

The car's wheels had fallen off

Sophia's Aunt couldn't remember the last time her house was tidy

Marco's hair was wet

The little ducks' feathers were very soft

The doctors' surgery was extremely busy



Lesson plan: *continued*

Timings	Activity
 <p>15 min</p>	<p>Task: Learners further divide their apostrophe for possession list into two further lists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singular noun • Plural noun <p>Looking at these two piles, learners discuss the following questions to decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does the apostrophe go to show possession when the noun is singular? • Where does the apostrophe for possession go when the noun is plural? <p>Mini plenary: Using Worksheet 1 learners practise the skill of identifying the owner of the object and adding the apostrophe in the correct place.</p>
 <p>10 min</p>	<p>Main lesson</p> <p>Task: Introduce the concept of apostrophes for omission or contraction. Distribute Worksheet 2. Working in pairs, or individually, learners should complete Exercise 1. This requires them to create the contracted form of the phrases by putting the apostrophe in the correct place.</p> <p>Learners could swap their work with one another to check their answers.</p>
 <p>10 min</p>	<p>Read the passage on Worksheet 2, Exercise 2 with learners. You could either read this aloud, have learners read this independently, or ask selected learners to read parts of the passage. Learners then highlight the words that could be contracted before rewriting the passage to make this letter less formal.</p>
 <p>5 min</p>	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Learners should share with a partner their rewritten passages. Ask them to provide feedback for one another based on parts of the passage they feel have been rewritten well and elements that still need work to make less formal.</p>



Teacher's notes

Key words / concepts you could highlight during the lesson, or have pre-taught before the lesson:

- **omission** (noun) – something that is left out
- **omit** (verb) – to leave (something) out

You will need to have prepared the cards for the card sort (starter activity). Learners work in groups of 2–4 and will need one pack per group.

Lesson resources



Worksheet 1: The apostrophe for ownership

Worksheet 2: The apostrophe for omission



Worksheet 1: The apostrophe for ownership

The books of the men

Find the owner



The men

Add the apostrophe



The men'

And the 's' if there isn't one or
if it is needed



The men's books

The house of my parents

Find the owner



Add the apostrophe



And the 's' if there isn't one or
if it is needed



The piano of Sara

Find the owner



Add the apostrophe



And the 's' if there isn't one or
if it is needed





Worksheet 2: The apostrophe for omission

Exercise 1

Write each word in its shortened (contracted) form, using the apostrophe for omission. The first example has been done for you.

1. Do not

2. Cannot

3. I am

4. It is

5. You have

6. Had not

7. When is

8. We would

9. Is not

10. Let us

11. It will

12. Shall not

13. You are

14. Will not

15. They are

16. We have

17. She had

18. Has not



Worksheet 2: *continued*

Exercise 2

Read the text below and highlight all the words or phrases that could be contracted. Then rewrite the letter below to make this less formal.

If you have nothing better to do with your free time, you are welcome to come and stay with us. You cannot imagine what fun we have here! I am not exaggerating when I say that it will be the best experience of your life! You will make new friends and they will remain your friends for life. Mr Travers, who is camp coordinator, is great! He has had many years' experience and he will make sure that you have the time of your life! I have been to camp every summer for five years now and I am still finding something new to do every day. If you have not been to camp before, you should not worry as it is not a frightening experience and, if you feel afraid of any task, you do not have to try it. You need not buy expensive equipment either as we will provide everything you will need. It will be great to see you!

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