

# Apostrophes

Teaching

**Apostrophes in possessives** Use an apostrophe to form the possessive of any noun, whether singular or plural. For a singular noun, add 's even if the word ends in s.

Vondra's backpack

James's flashlight

For plural nouns that end in s, add only an apostrophe.

the campers' sleeping bags

the rangers' warnings

For plural nouns that do not end in s, add an apostrophe and s.

the deer's antlers

the men's boots

**Apostrophes in contractions** Use apostrophes in contractions to show where letters have been left out.

I am --> I'm    we are --> we're    they have --> they've    she will --> she'll

Don't confuse contractions with possessive pronouns, which do not contain apostrophes.

it's (contraction, means *it is*)    its (possessive, means *belonging to it*)

## Using Apostrophes

In the sentences below, underline the correct word in the each pair in parentheses.

1. We found the (hikers/hikers') lost gear.
2. (It's/Its) a hard trek up the mountain.
3. This (parks/park's) rules were hard to understand.
4. The (rangers'/rangers) instructions helped.
5. (Weve/We've) got our backpacks and maps.
6. Did you see the (childrens'/children's) artwork?
7. You (shouldn't, should'nt) do (they're/their) homework for them.
  
9. I asked (whose/who's) going to the school dance.
10. That climbing equipment is (Thomas'/Thomas's).
11. If Winona hears we're going, (shell/she'll) want to go along.
12. That shelf is for (women's/womens) shoes and boots.
13. That (fisherman's/fishermans') warnings probably saved our lives.
14. If (youve/you've) been here before, (you're, your) in for a surprise because of the changes.