



## Apostrophes

**Use an apostrophe to indicate:**

- Possession  
**Example:** Mrs. Johnson's passport
- Description  
**Example:** A woman's college
- Origin of an act  
**Example:** The girl's story
- Recipient of an act  
**Example:** The boys' release
- Subject of the genitive  
**Example:** His parents' consent
- Measure  
**Example:** Ten days' absence

**Add the apostrophe only to the last word of compound words. For example:**

Father-in-law's  
Someone else's

**If two or more words are referred to individually, add the apostrophe to both. If they are referred to as a group, add the apostrophe only to the last one.**

**Incorrect:** Suzanne's and Jerry's dentist  
**Correct:** Suzanne and Jerry's dentist

**Do not use the apostrophe in forming plurals or with the possessive form of personal pronouns.**

**Incorrect:** The unleashed dog's roamed in the park.  
**Correct:** The unleashed dogs roamed in the park.

**Use the apostrophe to form the plurals of letters, numbers, and words used as terms. For example:**

That sentence has too many but's.  
My zip code has four 4's, but my name has five t's.

### Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!