



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!