

Year 4 – Spring Block 1 – Apostrophes – When Should You NOT Use an Apostrophe

About This Resource:

This PowerPoint has been designed to support your teaching of this small step. It includes a starter activity and an example of each question from the Varied Fluency and Application and Reasoning resources also provided in this pack. You can choose to work through all examples provided or a selection of them depending on the needs of your class.

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [The grammatical difference between plural and possessive –s](#)

English Year 4: (4G5.8) [Apostrophes to mark plural possession \[for example, the girl's name, the girls' names\]](#)

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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Year 4 – Spring Block 1 – Apostrophes – When Should You NOT Use an Apostrophe

Notes and Guidance:

- In the previous steps, children have learned to recognise apostrophes for possession and contraction, and use apostrophes for plural possession.
- In this step, children will learn when an apostrophe is not appropriate, addressing common misconceptions. This includes using an apostrophe for a plural noun. For example, *There are many car's.*

Focused Questions

- Has the apostrophe been used correctly?
- Should there be an apostrophe in this word?
- Re-write this sentence so that it uses apostrophes accurately.

Step 3: When Should You NOT Use an Apostrophe

Introduction

Spot the mistake in each sentence below.

A) There are far too many car's on the road nowadays.

B) We c'ant go in there, it might be dangerous.

C) My mums' birthday is next month.

D) The brushes's bristles were wearing away.

E) The frightened child cry's on my shoulder.

Introduction

Spot the mistake in each sentence below.

A) There are far too many **car's** on the road nowadays.

B) We **c'ant** go in there, it might be dangerous.

C) My **mums'** birthday is next month.

D) The **brushes's** bristles were wearing away.

E) The frightened child **cry's** on my shoulder.

Varied Fluency 1

True or false?

The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

**“Mum, please will you buy me some sweet’s?”
asked the child.**

Varied Fluency 1

True or false?

The apostrophe has been used correctly in the sentence below.

**“Mum, please will you buy me some sweet’s?”
asked the child.**

False, it should be sweets.

Varied Fluency 2

The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

couldv'e

their's

Jennys'

film's

Varied Fluency 2

The apostrophes in the words below have been used incorrectly. Rewrite the words correctly.

couldv'e

could've

their's

theirs

Jennys'

Jenny's

film's

films

Varied Fluency 3

Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

The cake's halve's are not equal, so you're getting more than me.

We had lot's of playtime as a reward for our hard work.

Varied Fluency 3

Circle the apostrophes that have been used correctly in the sentences below.

The cake's halve's are not equal, so you're getting more than me.

We had lot's of playtime as a reward for our hard work.

Varied Fluency 4

Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

Why're you up so early these day's?

I sha'nt do it and you can't make me!

The childrens' singing was beautiful.

“That's amazing!” Alis' mum cried.

Varied Fluency 4

Underline the words where an apostrophe is used incorrectly in the sentences below.

Why're you up so early these day's?

I sha'nt do it and you can't make me!

The childrens' singing was beautiful.

"That's amazing!" Alis' mum cried.

Application 1

Rewrite these sentence and correct the apostrophe mistakes.

**My brothers worrie'd about his competition as
the other team's are very good and hed' like to
win.**

Application 1

Rewrite these sentence and correct the apostrophe mistakes.

My brothers worrie'd about his competition as the other team's are very good and hed' like to win.

My brother's worried about his competition as the other teams are very good and he'd like to win.

Reasoning 1

Dan is completing the following sentence.

My mum collects _____ wherever she sees them.

Dan says,



I need to write shell's
to finish the
sentence.

Is Dan right? Explain your answer.

Reasoning 1

Dan is completing the following sentence.

My mum collects _____ wherever she sees them.

Dan says,



I need to write shell's
to finish the
sentence.

Is Dan right? Explain your answer.

Dan is not correct because...

Reasoning 1

Dan is completing the following sentence.

My mum collects _____ wherever she sees them.

Dan says,



I need to write shell's
to finish the
sentence.

Is Dan right? Explain your answer.

Dan is not correct because he needs to write shells instead.

Reasoning 2

Have the apostrophes been used correctly in the sentence below?

Mias' rabbits' fur is very soft and fluffy and ll'l look after it when sh'es away.

Explain your answer.

Reasoning 2

Have the apostrophes been used correctly in the sentence below?

Mias' rabbits' fur is very soft and fluffy and ll'l look after it when sh'es away.

Explain your answer.

They have not been used correctly because...

Reasoning 2

Have the apostrophes been used correctly in the sentence below?

Mias' rabbits' fur is very soft and fluffy and ll'l look after it when sh'es away.

Explain your answer.

They have not been used correctly because it should be Mia's, rabbit's, I'll and she's.