



Using the Apostrophe

In general, apostrophes are used to show possession and to form contractions.

Using the Apostrophe to Indicate Ownership

To create a possessive form:

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|------------------------------|--|
| | |
| | |
| <i>joint possession</i> | |
| | |
| <i>individual possession</i> | |
| | |

: In the first sentence above, Joyce and Greg jointly possess one camper. In the second sentence, John and Marie individually have different expectations.

Using the Apostrophe to Mark Contractions

The Writing Center

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Incorrect Uses of the Apostrophe

Correct:

Correct: Each area has its own conference room.

It's

it is

its

Correct: This course was taught by a florist whose technique was oriental.

Who's

who is

whose