SPaG Knowledge Organiser: Apostrophes for Possession

Key Vocabulary

apostrophe: A punctuation mark used to show possession or to represent missing letter(s) in a contracted form.

possession: Having, owning or controlling something.

plural: A word that stands for more than one of something, such as: rabbits; peaches; babies.

Try to remember...

Not every word that ends in an 's' needs an apostrophe. Many of them are just plural nouns. In the phrase 'the cats are sleeping', cats does not need an apostrophe because nothing in the sentence belongs to the cats.

Starting Out!

First, you must recognise what is owned or controlled and who it is owned or controlled by.

The rabbit has a carrot. The carrot belongs to the rabbit.

Try It!

Now, write a sentence where **possession** is shown and an apostrophe to show possession will be needed.

The carrot belongs to the rabbit.

It is the **rabbits carrot**.

Become an Expert!

To become an expert at apostrophes for possession, you must know what to do to show possession by irregular plural nouns.

The men's football kits were in the locker room.
In the example above, more than one man owns a football kit. However, the apostrophe goes before the 's' as 'men' is an irregular plural noun.

Our children's school is the best in the area.
In the example above, one school is owned by multiple children. Even though there is more than one child, the apostrophe goes before the 's' as 'children' is an irregular plural noun.

Congratulations – you have reached expert status!

Apply It!

Use an **apostrophe** in the correct place to show possession.

If the item belongs to a singular noun, the apostrophe will usually go before the letter 's', such as:

It is the rabbit's carrot.

This shows that one carrot belongs to one rabbit.

If the item belongs to a more than one of something (plural possession), the apostrophe will usually go after the letter 's', such as:

It is the rabbits' carrot.

This shows that one carrot belongs to multiple rabbits.