

## Exercises for

### Tutorial 8. Use of Apostrophes with Possessives and Contractions

**Principle I:** To form the possessive of a noun that does not already end in “s,” add the apostrophe + “s.” Remember to add the “s” to the person or thing that possesses or owns.

**Principle II:** If the possessive noun already ends in “s,” add the apostrophe after the “s.”

#### Exercise 1

**Instructions:** Using Principles I and II, rewrite each underlined group of words, using apostrophes to show possession. The first sentence has been done for you.

*Example:* We like the brownies of her grandmother.

We like **her grandmother’s brownies.**

*Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into its answer box; then rewrite using **bold**.*

1. The instructor read the poems written by the students.

The instructor read **the students’ poems.**

2. Dominique renewed the lease of her apartment.

3. She liked the drawings of the children.

4. The crowd at the ballpark was surprised at the skill of the rookie player.

5. Enrique was angry about the voting records of the senators.

6. Raquel's new boyfriend disliked the attitudes of her parents.

7. The university was surprised with the test scores of the applicants.

8. I have already graded the essay that James wrote.

**Principle III:** To show individual possession, add an apostrophe + “s” to each possessive noun.

**Principle IV:** To show shared possession, add an apostrophe + “s” only to the last noun.

## Exercise 2

**Instructions:** Using Principles III and IV, rewrite each underlined group of words, using apostrophes to show possession. The first sentence has been done for you.

*Examples:*     The wedding anniversary of my grandparents was unforgettable.

**My grandparents' wedding anniversary** was unforgettable.

The old songs by Keith Richards and Mick Jagger are classic.

**Keith Richards and Mick Jagger's old songs** are classic.

The luxury cars of Kim Kardashian and Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi are expensive.

**Kim’s and Snooki’s** luxury cars are expensive.

*Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into its answer box; then rewrite using **bold**.*

1. The adventures of Bill and Ted were vividly depicted in the film about time travel.

*(Bill and Ted shared their adventures.)*

**Bill and Ted’s adventures** were vividly depicted in the film about time travel.

2. The audience enjoyed the balcony scene of Romeo and Juliet.

3. The audience laughed during the movie of Laurel and Hardy.

4. The literary works that Toni Morrison and Langston Hughes wrote are among the most admired in African American literature.

5. We admire the designs that Armani and Dior created.

### Exercise 3

**Instructions:** Using Principles I, II, III, and IV, rewrite each underlined group of words, using apostrophes to show possession. The first sentence has been done for you. *Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into its answer box, then rewrite using **bold**.*

1. The critics of the playwright saw these plays as ways of sorting through the meanings of both the calamities of the past and the uncertainties of the present.

**The playwright’s critics** saw these plays as ways of sorting through the meanings of both the calamities of the past and the uncertainties of the present

2. The search of Oedipus for the killer of Laius and the doubt of Othello about the fidelity of his wife all lead to irreversible results.

3. In the woods, the lovers find themselves in the unpredictable kingdom of King Oberon and his wife Titania.

4. The play ends with the warm assurances of Puck and his gentle urging to “Give me your hands.”

**Principle V:** A contraction is a combination of two words in which an apostrophe is added to show where one or more letters are missing.

**Principle VI:** Contractions are generally inappropriate in academic or formal writing.

### Exercise 4

**Instructions:** Using Principles V and VI, revise the following sentences to correct any mistakes in the use of apostrophes. First, underline the contractions. Then, if the apostrophe is missing, the apostrophe should be added, or if a contraction is too informal, make the correction. The first sentence has been done for you. *Type, write, or copy-paste and revise in the answer boxes.*

1. If you're a fan of the outdoors, you'll enjoy exploring the trails at Point Lobos.

If **you're** a fan of the outdoors, **you'll** enjoy exploring the trails at Point Lobos.

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2. In the middle of summer, a bus will take it's passengers from San Francisco to Pfeiffer State Park where hiking enthusiasts wont be disappointed.

3. Even though they're going to be arriving late in the afternoon, they won't be hungry because they will have eaten lunch on the bus.

4. It's not uncommon that some hikers won't want to wait for dinner and might stop by the restaurant at the Lodge where I've enjoyed many delicious meals.

5. Juanita's not willing to eat indoors and doesn't want to pay for an expensive meal.

6. They'd prefer buying food at the local grocery, and don't want to enjoy an outdoor picnic.

7. Even though some people don't enjoy "roughing it," a true outdoor enthusiast doesn't mind making sacrifices to enjoy the wonders of nature, something that can't be experienced in the city.

8. Kathleen's hoping that the fog will disappear by this weekend and that it won't spoil the fireworks display that we've all been eagerly anticipating.

**Principle VII: To form the possessive of a pronoun, do not add an apostrophe.**

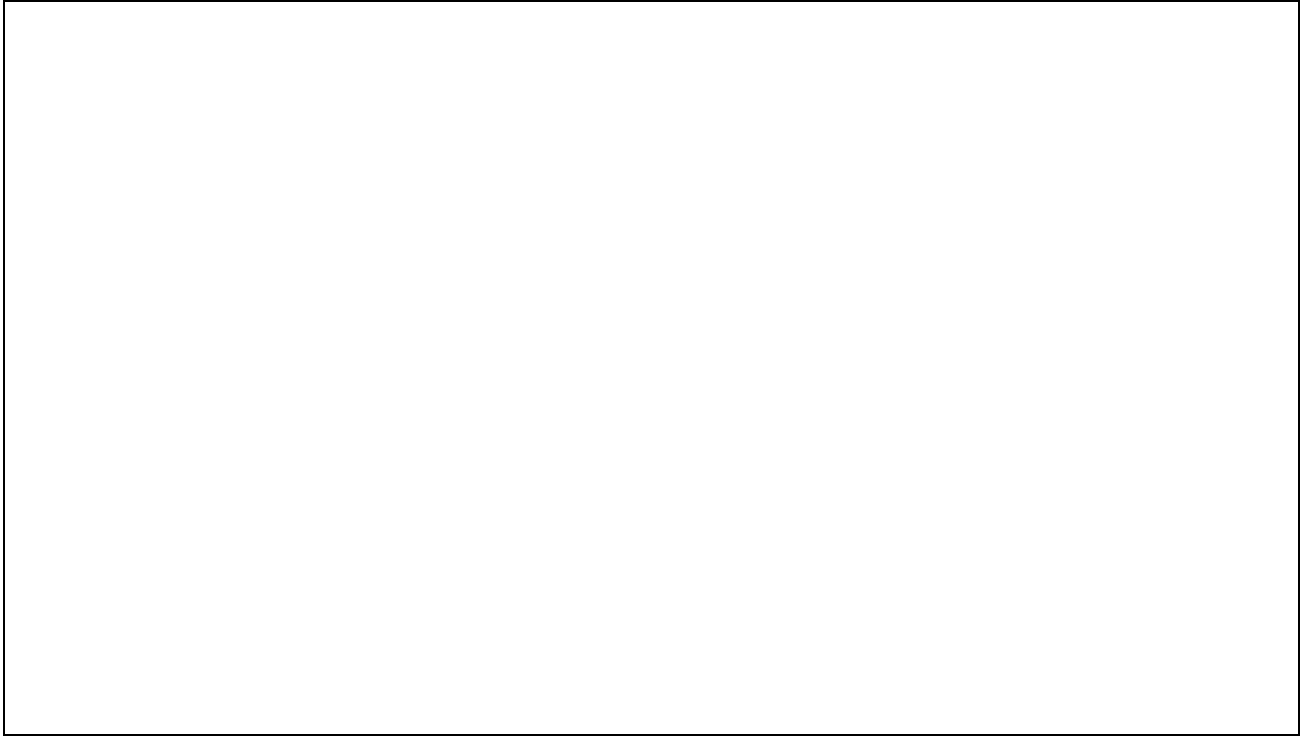
**Principle VII: Never add an apostrophe to a third-person singular verb (a verb that ends in "s"). When you make a noun plural, do *not* add an apostrophe. The only time plural nouns should have apostrophes is when they are possessive.**

## Exercise 5

**Instructions:** Using Principles I through VIII, proofread the following five paragraphs for possessives and add apostrophes if necessary. *Type, write, or copy-paste each set of paragraphs into the answer box that follows; make revisions in **bold**.*

- 1        The Golden State Warriors recent loss of lead assistant coach Mike Malone may have profound implications for the team. Malone, who was recently hired as the head coach of the Sacramento Kings, was certainly part of the Warriors success in reaching the Western Conference semifinals this past season. When they hired head coach Mark Jackson in 2011, the Warriors were making sure that Jackson, a first-time coach, would have an experienced assistant coach in Malone, making him the highest-paid assistant coach in the league.
- 2        Jacksons coaching was unfairly discredited during the postseason as a result of in-huddle camera time that showed him motivating more than strategizing. Sports writer Lowell Cohn of The Santa Rosa Press expressed little respect for Jacksons actual coaching in a recent column. Cohn essentially writes that Malone provided all the strategy for the team.
- 3        Malone was the Warriors strategist. Jackson doesnt want you to believe that. Its a bad look when the head coach is not the strategy guy. You never in a million years could imagine the Spurs Gregg Popovich ceding strategy decisions to someone else. Jackson did. Youve watched Warriors games on TV. Youve heard Jackson do the rah-rah routine during timeouts—he loves to put on the microphone so fans can hear him. Never once did he give his team a play.

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A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their answers to the exercises.

4 With respect to Cohn, its hard to agree with such overly simplistic summations for two reasons. First, TV networks always wait for moments of viewer-friendly narration to relay to its audience. Second, Jackson also has played the 13th-most games in NBA history, and hes third in all-time assists; its safe to say he learned something along the way. In other words, Jackson knows what hes doing, too.

5 However, its also true that Jackson will need another strategic top assistant, and yes, this makes him very similar to most coaches in the league. Its obvious Malone was an excellent assistant, and its going to be tough to replace him. Clearly people in the organization thought highly of Malone, and he was going to land a head-coaching job eventually. So if Jackson wants to repeat his teams success in 2013-14, the goal will be to seek a replacement that closely fits Malones skill set. The loss of Mike Malone will certainly sting, but Jackson and the Warriors ownership have made all the right moves in management thus far. It stands to reason they wont settle for anything less than another top-flight assistant.

