



Apostrophes

Apostrophes are used with nouns to indicate possession. There are two primary ways to demonstrate possession, using apostrophes:

Adding 's to a noun:

When a noun does not end in *-s* and is singular, add **'s** to the noun to indicate possession

Example: *The tyrannosaurus rex attacked the children on the driver's side of the car.*

This is true even when a noun already ends in **s** if the noun is singular; however, if it would be difficult or awkward to pronounce, ending a singular noun with an apostrophe is permitted

Example: *The triceratops' stomach was distended.*

Adding only an apostrophe to a noun:

When a noun is plural, add only an apostrophe.

Example: *The archaeologists' fossils were of no use when it came to hand-to-hand combat with a raptor.*

Joint Possession:

In the case of compound nouns, **'s** is placed at the end of the second noun.

Example: *Grant and Sadler's archaeology dig was funded by their trip to Jurassic Park.*

Contractions:

Apostrophes can also be used for contractions, to take the place of the missing letter(s). It is important to not confuse this use of contraction for possession.

Examples: *It's interesting to consider how dinosaurs were able to breed at Jurassic Park. (contraction)*
The raptor used its claws to open doors. (possession)