

APOSTROPHES—POSSESSIONS

“ All my father’s birds were bigger, and they picked on him, and made him miserable. ”

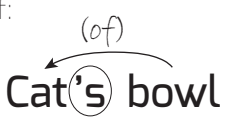
—From *The Neddiad* by Daniel Pinkwater,
found by Kennedy Cantu

Teach it

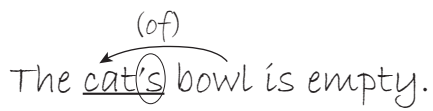
1. Write this on the board

Apostrophes in possessions

Proof:



Ex:



PRACTICE THE CONVERSATION:

- A:** Read me the sentence please.
- B:** *The cat's bowl is empty.*
- A:** Great. How did you spell *cat's*?
- B:** C-a-t-apostrophe-s.
- A:** Hmm. I don't think you needed an apostrophe there.
- B:** I'm pretty sure an apostrophe goes there.
- A:** Why? What are the two reasons you would ever use an apostrophe?
- B:** Contractions and possessions.
- A:** Yes! But wait . . . which one is this?
- B:** It's a possession.
- A:** I don't think it is.
- B:** It absolutely is!
- A:** Can you prove it?
- B:** *The cat's bowl . . . the bowl of the cat . . .*
- A:** It's empty, isn't it? Great job.



2. **Explain:**

There are only two reasons we use apostrophes: contractions and possessions.

Possessions mean that something belongs to something. Use this process to test to see if a noun is possessive:

- Insert “of the” in between the two words.
- Flip the positions of the two words; then read it to see if they sound like a possession.

Here are examples:

the boy's bike = the bike of the boy

my friend's feelings = the feelings of my friend

the computer's hard drive = the hard drive of the computer

So if you're going to use an apostrophe to show a possession, here's how you show your proof:

- Circle the apostrophe-s.
 - Draw an arrow from the possession (the thing) to the owner.
 - Write of the over the arrow, like the example on the board.
 - Now listen to it backward, like those examples.
3. Pass out the practicing conversation.
 4. **Ask:** Now, who will try out this proof with me? (Enact the conversation.)
 5. **Say:** Open to your grammar chart, and let's find **apostrophes in possessions, singular**. Let's jot down an example of a proof on the chart.

Model it

- Project the journal entry and read it.
- One at a time, ask volunteers to read the sentences with the **singular possessive apostrophes** aloud. Ask them to use the proof to show how the apostrophe marks a possession.

Practice it

- Say:** *In your journal today, try to use at least five examples of **apostrophes of possession**, underlining each use. Write the proof over each one.*

August 29

My favorite soccer players are Messi, Nehmar, Pelé, Ronaldo, Ronaldihno and last Robihno.

They are my favorite soccer players. Messi—because he is the best in the world when it

comes to soccer, with 185 goals in 1 month. He was declared **2012's** best. Nehmar Jr.—He

is my favorite, because 1) he is Brazilian, 2) **Nehmar's** agility skills are great. Nehmar

was declared best shooter of all times. Pelé—He is my favorite because 1) Brazilian,

2) **Pelé's** record won him awards, and he was the first person to be called the best in

1998. In 1997 Pelé retired. Ronaldo—Ronaldo is a good Portuguese soccer player.

Ronaldo's winnings are 95,000,000 euros for playing in Real, Madrid, and Portugal.

Ronaldo's free kicks are considered the best. Ronaldihno—Ronaldihno is my first favorite.

He made 23 goals in one game. **Ronaldihno's** skills and tricks are perfect. The last but not

least is Robihno, a good Brazilian soccer player. He is now playing for Milan, the Italian

League. What or who is your favorite soccer player?

—Jacob Torres
Grade 7