ENGLISH LANGUAGE WORKSHEET

Topic: Usage of Apostrophes

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

PART 1: DEFINITIONS AND RULES

1. What is an Apostrophe?

An apostrophe (') is a punctuation mark used to show:

• Possession or ownership: Ali's book. • Missing letters in shortened words (contractions): Don't.

2. Rules for Using Apostrophes

Rule 1: Singular Possession:Add an apostrophe followed by s ('s) to a singular noun to show ownership. Examples: the girl's bag; the teacher's desk; my father's car.

Rule 2: Plural Possession:When a plural noun ends in s, place the apostrophe after the s. Examples: the girls' uniforms; the teachers' room; the students' books.

Rule 3: Irregular Plural Possession:When a plural noun does not end in s, add 's to show possession. Examples: the children's toys; the men's shoes; the women's clothes.

Rule 4: Contractions:An apostrophe replaces one or more missing letters when two words are shortened into one.

Rule 5: Names Ending in s:For most singular names ending in s, add 's. Examples: James's bicycle; Charles's house; Thomas's book. Some style guides also accept James' bicycle.

Rule 6: Time and Measurements:Apostrophes can show a period of time. Examples: a day's work; two weeks' holiday; an hour's journey; a month's salary.

Examples of Contractions

Full Form	Contraction
Do not	Don't
Cannot	Can't
Is not	Isn't
Are not	Aren't
I am	I'm
They are	They're
We will	We'll
They have	They've
Would not	Wouldn't

3. Words That Are Often Confused

Word	Meaning	Example
Its	Belonging to it	The dog wagged its tail.
It's	It is / It has	It's raining.
Their	Belonging to them	Their house is large.
They're	They are	They're happy.

Whose	Belonging to whom	Whose book is this?
Who's	Who is / Who has	Who's coming today?
Your	Belonging to you	Your bag is here.
You're	You are	You're very kind.

4. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Using apostrophes to make ordinary plurals: Incorrect: I have three apple's. Correct: I have three apples.

Confusing its and it's: Incorrect: The cat is licking it's paws. Correct: The cat is licking its paws.

Placing the apostrophe incorrectly: Incorrect: The students's books. Correct: The students' books.

5. Quick Revision

• Singular possession: 's

• Plural possession ending in s: s'

• Irregular plural possession: 's

• Contractions: apostrophe replaces missing letters

• Ordinary plurals: no apostrophe

PART 2: EXERCISES

Exercise 1: Insert Apostrophes

Rewrite the following sentences by inserting apostrophes wherever necessary.

1. I dont know where my brothers bag is.

_____

2. The girls dresses were hanging in the cupboard.

_____

3. Its a beautiful day, isnt it?

_____

4. The childrens toys were scattered across the room.

_____

5. We cant attend tomorrows meeting.

_____

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct Option

Circle the correct answer.

1. (Its / It's) raining outside.
2. The (boys / boy's / boys') uniforms are blue. (Belonging to several boys.)
3. (Whose / Who's) pencil is this?
4. The cat licked (its / it's) paws.
5. The (childrens / children's / childrens') playground is closed.

END OF WORKSHEET

ANSWER KEY

Topic: Usage of Apostrophes

Exercise 1: Insert Apostrophes

1. I don't know where my brother's bag is. 2. The girls' dresses were hanging in the cupboard. 3. It's a beautiful day, isn't it?
4. The children's toys were scattered across the room.
5. We can't attend tomorrow's meeting.

Exercise 2: Choose the Correct

Option 1. It's

2. boys'

3. Whose

4. its

5. children's