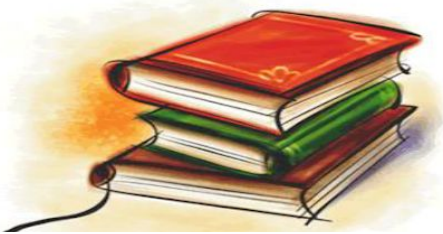




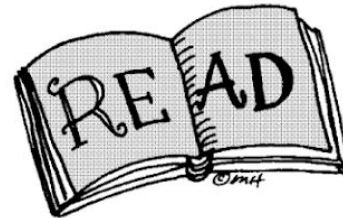
TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

Apostrophes

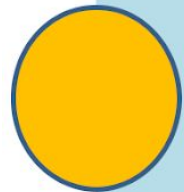
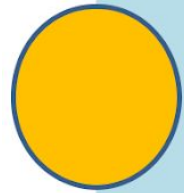


Speaking & Listening



Apostrophes

- The apostrophe (' or ') is a punctuation mark, and generally serves two main purposes:



1- To show something belongs to something:

(the eagle's feathers, or in one month's time).

- The marking of the omission of one or more letters:

(the contraction of do not to don't).

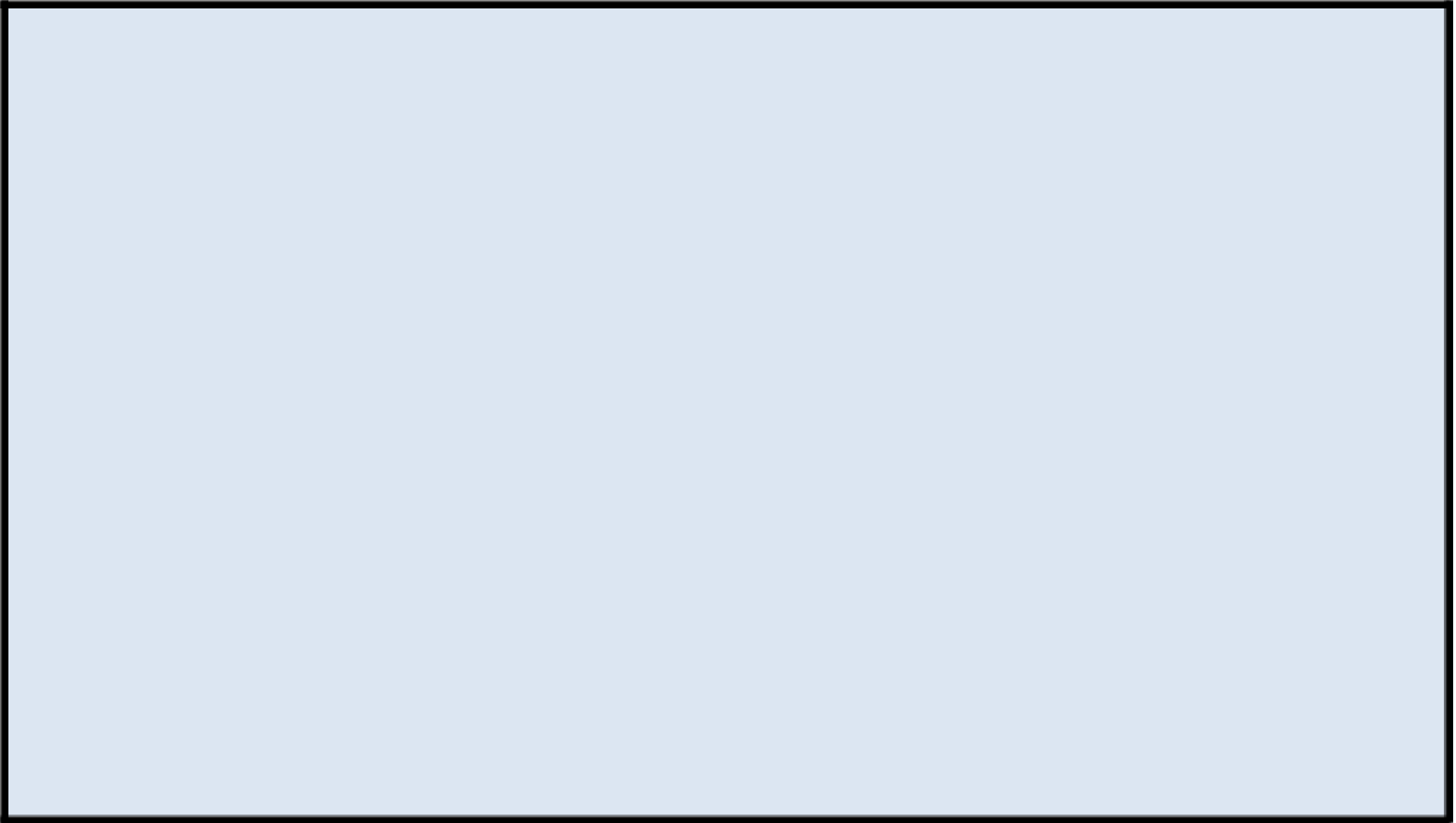
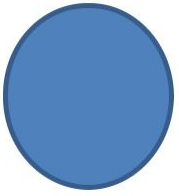
Apostrophes

A **possessive apostrophe** is an apostrophe which shows who (or what) has or owns something.

The pencil case which belonged to Megan.

To replace missing letters in contractions. (Omission)

- Cannot - Can't
- She had - She'd



Apostrophes are used to show possession. For example:

The horse's hay (one horse)

The horses' hay (more than one horse)

The big question is where to put the apostrophe. Does it go before or after the s? The quick answer:

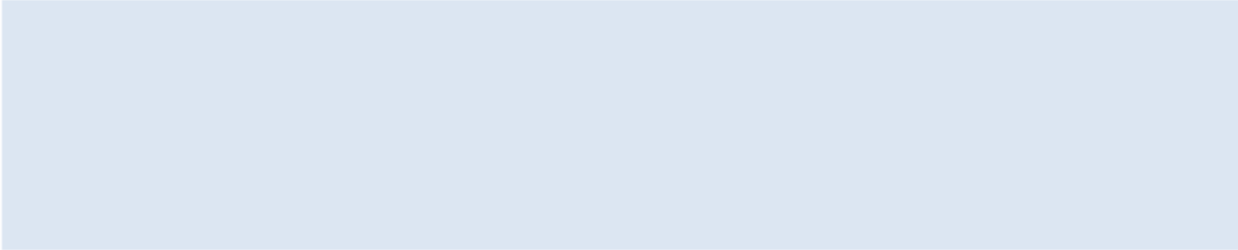
For **one** horse (or one possessor), put the apostrophe **before** the s. For **more than one** horse (or more than possessor), put the apostrophe **after** the s.

(Beware! There are some exceptions to this rule.)



Apostrophes

**DO NOT USE AN APOSTROPHE S
ON A WORD WHICH DOES NOT
OWN ANYTHING**



Those five dogs are driving me mad

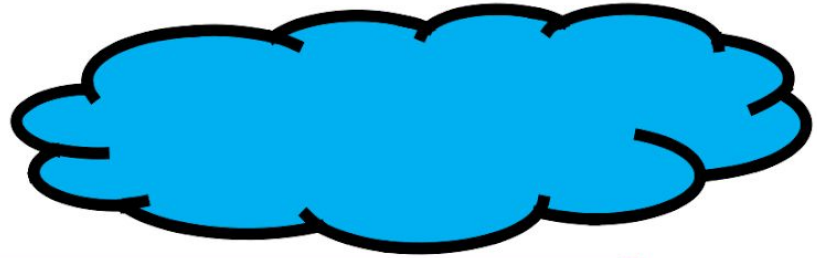
This is very, very important and
the most common mistake

Apostrophes

Apostrophes for omission

,

To show when letters have been left out (*omission*) you have to use an apostrophe. The apostrophe is used to show where letters are left out of a word when you shorten it.



Example

.'

Contractions

When two words are joined together in a shorter form.

The apostrophe takes the place of the missing letter(s).

- I am (I'm)
- They are (They're)
- Do not (don't)