

# Too Many Apostrophes



The use of apostrophes puzzles even adults, so for students learning English it can be even more confusing. Many languages do not have apostrophes or they apply them in a different way, so in this activity we give students practise at identifying where an apostrophe should be placed.

Suitable for students aged 7+

The Learning Outcome will be that students will have gained a greater understanding of the correct way of using an apostrophe.

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# Too Many Apostrophes

Developed by Stuart Scott  
Illustrated by Michael Levett

**Theme: Apostrophes**

**Age range: 7+**

**Context:**

The use of apostrophes can even puzzle adults. For students learning English it can be even more confusing. Many languages do not have apostrophes or they apply them in a different way, so in this activity we give students practise at identifying where an apostrophe should be placed. If you make your own version please send it to the address below.

**Preparation:**

Print out the A4 sheets. If possible, laminate or cover with 'clear pvc self adhesive book cover film' before cutting out the Apostrophes and Sentence Cards. There are two different types of Sentence Cards for this game.

**HOW TO PLAY:**

Four players work in two pairs.

Each pair is given a Sentence List.

Shuffle the Sentence and Apostrophe Cards and place them in the middle of the table.

Pairs take turns to pick a Sentence Card. If they find extra apostrophes that should not be there, they must identify them.

The other pair must agree.

Players take an apostrophe card for each extra apostrophe that they need. They can use these apostrophes for sentences on their Sentence Lists that are missing some.

(You may want students to write the sentences to show exactly where an apostrophe should be.)

The first pair to collect enough Apostrophe Cards to correct all the sentences on their Sentence List is the winner.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will have gained a greater understanding of the correct way of using an apostrophe.

If you have found further learning outcomes please share them by emailing [collaborate@mantralingua.com](mailto:collaborate@mantralingua.com)

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(You can purchase a professionally printed, sound-enabled version of this activity with pre-cut cards from [www.mantralingua.com](http://www.mantralingua.com). Students can use PENpal to record and re-record aurally onto the pages and cards. Recordings can be saved and used for assessment, or shared with other classes and schools via "ShareLINK".)



It's too soon to know  
where the banana's  
skin has gone.



We've completed  
the collections' of our  
bats' droppings.



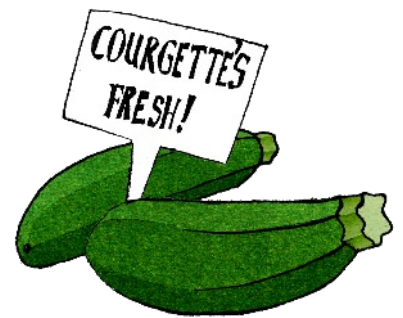
Margaret's cauliflowers'  
are bigger than Elizabeth's  
cabbage's.



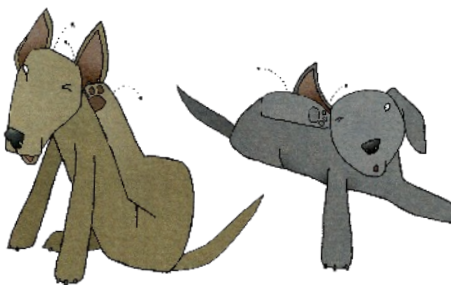
Joe's essays' are longer  
than Sahils' essay's.



Sameena's cat's eaten  
Jose's dog's dinner.



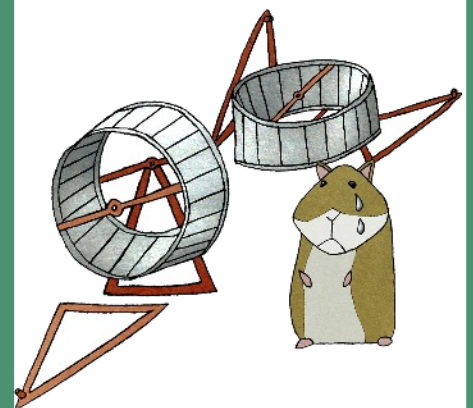
The town's market stalls'  
are selling courgette's.



Tina's aunts' dogs'  
have flea's.



Meg's crisp's are as  
crisp as courgettes'!



Abdul's hamsters'  
wheels' aren't working.



They're going to buy lettuces' for tomorrow's picnic's.



Where's the crisp's we bought yesterday?



If this isn't Mark's mark'er pen, then it's mine!



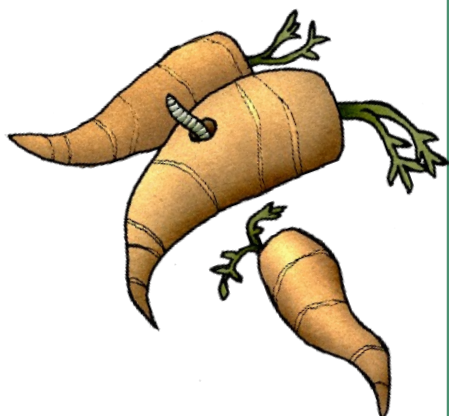
The market's vegetable's are fresher than the shop's.



Are your meringue's sticky inside?



We had banana's yesterday, but we've no bananas today.



The'se carrots' are not looking as healthy as last year's carrots.

## Sentence List 1

Weve put my mothers mincemeat in the dogs dinner and the cats breakfast.

Its too late to sow this years seeds in the window boxes.

Bills plants are healthier than ours.

Theyve put lots of pairs of trousers on the shelves.

Wheres my friends presents?

How do dinosaurs long necks stay up?

## Sentence List 2

Weve put my fathers dinner in the dogs bowl and the canaries cage.

Its too early to plant this years seeds in my aunts new window boxes.

The English teachers plants are more sustainable than ours.

Weve put lots of pairs of jeans on the new shops shelves.

Wheres my friends parents presents?

How do bananas go yellow after theyre picked?

# Apostrophes - Apostrophe Cards

