

Name _____ Date _____

Apostrophes – Exercise 1

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Choose the correct evaluation of each underlined word.

1. Annoying music escaped from Kinya's ear buds.
 - A. **Kinya's** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. No apostrophe is needed.
2. Buy your own pens! You cannot borrow ours.
 - A. **Ours** does *not* need an apostrophe.
 - B. **Ours** should have an apostrophe between the *r* and *s*: **our's**.
 - C. **Ours** should have an apostrophe after the *s*: **ours'**.
3. Ask Henry for help. His brain possess's all kinds of strange trivia.
 - A. **Possess's** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. You must spell the word like this: **possesses**.
4. The alarm clocks buzz startled Shane awake.
 - A. **Clocks** does *not* need an apostrophe.
 - B. **Clocks** should have an apostrophe between the *k* and *s*: **clock's**.
5. While the bee buzzes among the blooms, a patient mantis waits to strike.
 - A. **Buzzes** does *not* need an apostrophe.
 - B. You must spell the word with an apostrophe: **buzz's**.
 - C. You must spell the word with an apostrophe: **buzzes'**.
6. The Larsen's decided not to shutter their windows even though they were taking vacation at the height of hurricane season.
 - A. **Larsen's** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. The apostrophe should come after the *s*: **Larsens'**.
 - C. **Larsens** should *not* have an apostrophe.
7. Betty Ann could not resist petting the adorable poodle puppie's.
 - A. **Puppie's** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. No apostrophe is needed.
 - C. **Puppies** should have the apostrophe after the *s*: **puppies'**.

8. Our stomachs might burst! We **shouldn't** have eaten so many fried cheese sticks.
- A. ***Shouldn't*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. The apostrophe must come between the **d** and **n**, where the space was omitted: ***should'nt***.
9. Phillip banged his **knees'** on the metal bar beneath the desk.
- A. ***Knees'*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. ***Knees*** should have the apostrophe before the **s**: ***knee's***.
 - C. There's no apostrophe in ***knees***.
10. **Kimberly's** agile fingers typed the password too quickly for Pedro to catch.
- A. ***Kimberly's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. The apostrophe should come after the **s**: ***Kimberlys'***.
11. We wouldn't try one of your oatmeal raisin cookies for cash. **We've** seen your dirty kitchen!
- A. ***We've*** is a correct contraction.
 - B. You must spell the word like this: ***we've***.
12. We spent more time on our science fair project than Karen and Denny did, but everyone is ignoring our work to view **their's** instead!
- A. ***Their's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. ***Theirs*** should have the apostrophe after the **s**: ***theirs'***.
 - C. ***Theirs*** should **not** have an apostrophe.
13. The **pools** leaf covered surface did not invite Brandi to swim.
- A. ***Pools*** does **not** need an apostrophe.
 - B. ***Pools*** should have an apostrophe between the **l** and **s**: ***pool's***.
 - C. ***Pools*** should have an apostrophe after the **s**: ***pools'***.
14. In the morning, my dog Skeeter loves to sleep in the sunlight that **pool's** on the living room floor.
- A. ***Pool's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. You don't put an apostrophe in ***pools***.
 - C. ***Pool's*** should have the apostrophe after the **s**: ***pools'***.
15. **Delores's** leg jiggled while Professor Caldero explained the plagiarism penalties for the research essay.
- A. ***Delores's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. You must spell the word like this: ***Deloreses***.

16. Our mouths were so full of delicious **brownie's** that we could not speak.
- A. ***Brownie's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. ***Brownies*** should have the apostrophe after the **s**: ***brownies'***.
 - C. ***Brownies*** should **not** have an apostrophe.
17. Anthony **try's** to enjoy his tropical fish, but the aquarium glass is filthy with algae.
- A. ***Try's*** contains a correct apostrophe.
 - B. You must spell the word like this: ***trie's***.
 - C. You must spell the word without an apostrophe: ***tries***.
18. Marcus **harasses** his little sister Maggie by pulling her long braids.
- A. ***Harasses*** does **not** need an apostrophe.
 - B. You must spell the word with an apostrophe: ***harass'es***.
19. Maggie looked up in time to swat **Marcuses** hand from her face.
- A. ***Marcuses*** correctly shows possession.
 - B. You must punctuate the word like this: ***Marcus's***.
20. Eva can't believe her bad luck! First, her professor gave a pop quiz in chemistry, and now a water main break **means** the bathrooms are inoperable!
- A. ***Means*** does **not** need an apostrophe.
 - B. ***Means*** should have an apostrophe between the **n** and **s**: ***mean's***.
 - C. ***Means*** should have an apostrophe after the **s**: ***means'***.



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