Apostrophe Usage

- *Apostrophe Myths*

  1. When referring to a decade, there must be an apostrophe before the *s.*
     - **False!** The only time that an apostrophe is used when referring to a time period is when there is an omission of numbers.
       - Pink Floyd was a very popular band in the **'70s.**
       - Christopher Columbus sailed to North America in the **1400s.**

  2. When using the word *its* there must be an apostrophe in between the *t* and *s.*
     - Not always true! The only time that an apostrophe is used in *its* is when you are using the contraction form of "it is."
       - **It's** really cold outside this winter.
       - The dog chased its tail over and over again.

- *Apostrophe Rules:*

  1. Use an apostrophe to mark the possessive forms of nouns and some pronouns.
     - Singular nouns use an *'s* at the end of the word to show possession.
       - Last night I saw **Marvel's** production, *Ragnarok,* at the theaters.
     - Plural nouns use an *s'* at the end of the word to show possession.
       - The **dogs'** water bowls were empty by the time I got back from work.
     - Some nouns that change form when plural (women, mice, geese, etc.) use an *'s* at the end of the word to show possession.
       - The **women's** department at the store was completely wrecked after Black Friday.

2. If a word has more than one sibilant, the *s* or *z* sound, in the last syllable, you must use an ' after the *s*.

- **Jesus'** baseball bat was lost in the storm.

3. Add an *'s* to form the plural of a number, letter, or an abbreviation

- Sally got **A's and B's** on her report card.

4. Add an *'s* to form the possessive of an indefinite pronoun.

- **Everyone's** grades will be posted this afternoon.

5. Use an apostrophe on the last noun to show joint possession.

- **Sheila and Mark's** class got canceled for two days.

6. Use an apostrophe to show individual possession as well, but this time after both nouns.

- **Becky's and Jennifer's** cars were stuck in traffic for two hours.

7. Make the last noun possessive with an apostrophe if it is a compound noun.

- The **dental assistant's** main job was to prepare the hygienist for his work.