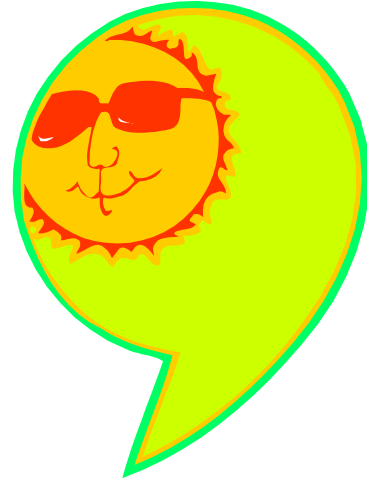


# What If?



## GRAPPLING WITH GRAMMAR

### *Appropriate Apostrophes*

Finding the appropriate home for your apostrophes doesn't have to give you nightmares. Actually, the rules are quite simple and there are only three of them to remember.

*Rule 1.* If you are using a contraction, you must use an apostrophe. Two words that have been shortened into one create a contraction and the apostrophe is used to show that letters have been left out. See the examples below.

*Rule 2.* As apostrophe is used at the end of a noun to show its possessive form. If the noun does not end in s, you must add an apostrophe and an s. If the noun ends in s, add the apostrophe only. See the examples below.

*Rule 3.* Do not use an apostrophe in possessive pronouns such as theirs, ours, its, hers, his or yours.

#### **Examples:**

#### **CONTRACTIONS**

it + is = it's

will + not = won't

they + will = they'll

you + are = you're

he + is = he's

is + not = isn't

#### **POSSESSIVE**

##### *Singular*

cat's fleas

dad's car

neighbour's driveway

child's popsicle

lady's friend

##### *Plural*

cats' fleas

dads' cars

neighbours'  
driveways

children's popsicles

ladies' friends

#### **COMMON CONFUSION**

When do you use **it's** as opposed to **its**? **It's** is a contraction and the apostrophe is used in this case. Although **its** is possessive, the apostrophe is not used because it is a pronoun (rule three).