

8 SIMPLE RULE'S FOR USING AN APOSTROPHE

Rule #1: Don't put an apostrophe where it doesn't belong (like the one in the plural noun "rules" in the title).

1 Own something? Use 's to show it: *John's toilet*. If the name ends in s: Add another 's after it: *Chris's plunger*. Inanimate objects can also "own" something, so instead of tweeting, "Yesterdays rainbow," tweet: *Yesterday's rainbow*.

2 A group owns something? Put ' after the s: *The BRI members' toilets*.

3 The group doesn't end in s? Add 's: *Children's potties*

4 More than one owns the same thing? Add 's to the second one: *John and Gordon's toothbrush*

5 Something not usually plural? Add 's to make it plural: *Cross your t's*

6 Taking out letters? Replace with 's. Here is =

here's. If it's a curved "smart quote" (not "straight quotes" like this), then the apostrophe must face in the direction of the missing text. It's not "I told 'em I had a BM back in '09." It's "I told 'em I had a BM back in '09."

7 Is it it's or its? Use it's when you could say "it is": *It's my toilet = It is my toilet*. Use its for belonging to: *The cheeky monkey pooped its pants*. (The pants belong to the monkey; you wouldn't say, "The cheeky monkey pooped it is pants.")

8 Is it you're or your? Use you're when you could say "you are": *You're wrong = You are wrong*. Use your for "belonging to": *I can see your underwear*. The underwear is yours, so it's not "I can see you are underwear." (Unless, of course, you actually are underwear.)