**Apostrophes & Possessive Pronouns**

* **Your Diagnosis.** You aren’t sure how to indicate that an object or idea *belongs* to someone or something in your sentences. You either place apostrophes in places where they don’t belong or leave them out altogether. You may be forgetting to use apostrophes in contractions, as well.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. Read your paper aloud, slowly. Stop yourself at the end of each sentence. **Circle any word that you added the “zizz” sound to**. For example, “Steve’s cat” is usually pronounced “Steve [zizz] cat.” Also circle personal pronouns that show possession so that you can check to make sure they have been used correctly: **its, their (s), our(s), his, her(s), your, my, mine**
* **The Cure!** Add (‘s) to nouns that are possessing an item or idea, causing you to make the “zizz” sound when you read them aloud (Steve’s dog, children’s pool). If the word already has a letter “s” at the end of it, just add an apostrophe by itself (classes’ fundraiser, birds’ sanctuary). Check to make sure all other possessive personal pronouns have been used correctly—remember that these pronouns should NOT contain an apostrophe!

 **Be on the lookout for…**

**Missing apostrophes in contractions: it’s, don’t, didn’t, hasn’t, haven’t, won’t, wouldn’t, etc.**

* + MISSING APOSTROPHE: She didnt do her homework.
		- *If you were trying to be more formal, what change would you make to “didnt”? What letter is missing from this informal version of that word? Add an apostrophe to “stand in” for the missing letter.*
	+ REVISED: She did**n’t** do her homework. –OR—She **did not** do her homework.

**Unnecessary apostrophes in possessive pronouns like the word “its”**

* + INCORRECT APOSTROPHE: The dog chased it’s tail.
		- *Does the sentence make sense if you substitute “it is” in the place of “it’s”? You are not using a contraction, and there are no missing letters. You don’t need an apostrophe here since the pronoun “its” already shows possession.*
	+ REVISED: The dog chased **its** tail.

**Missing apostrophes at the end of plural words or words that end in the letter “s”**

* + MISSING APOSTROPHE: The houses addresses showed only even numbers on this side of the street.
		- *Do the addresses basically belong to the houses in this sentence? You need to add an apostrophe after the “s” to show that they do.*
	+ REVISED: The house**s’** addresses showed only even numbers on this side of the street.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page. ![C:\Users\jmillis\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WEYT8JLT\Light-Bulb[1].jpg]() 🡪**

**Put apostrophes where needed in the following sentences’ words.**

1. The mens room was crowded, but the womens room wasnt crowded.
2. The two companies officers met to plan a joint venture.
3. Jills and my attempt at writing a song was truly successful.
4. Everyones parents came to the schools open house.
5. Jills and his yawns didn’t enhance Bobs and my enjoyment of the movie.
6. His two *60*s on tests doomed his chances of making straight *B*s.
7. That is natures way of saying that mans ways arent always beneficial.
8. The mens department isnt open today in his favorite store.