

Chapter 3

Apostrophes and hyphens

Introduction

Apostrophes present a real challenge to children learning how and when to use punctuation. In this chapter the first two activities provide a grounding in the types of apostrophe in use. 'Apostrophes in use' and 'Refining punctuation in writing' both connect this work with actual texts. This chapter also explains the different functions of hyphens and dashes.

Poster notes

Apostrophe chart (page 56)

This chart supports 'Apostrophes for possession' by providing a poster version of the rules for the addition of apostrophes to show possession. As a class, collect further examples of the four different categories of the possessive apostrophe and display them on a large sheet next to the poster. Can the children spot all the nouns that are objects of possession? Can they provide further examples?

Contractions (page 57)

This poster lists some words in which the apostrophe is used for contraction. Aside from acting as a reminder and a spelling tool, use this poster to occasionally pick one contraction and ask children what the original two words (or longer word) were, that have now been contracted to this form.

In this chapter

Apostrophes for possession page 58

Identify possessive apostrophes in reading and writing and to whom or what they refer.

Apostrophes for contraction page 62

Distinguish between apostrophes for possession and contraction.

Apostrophes in use page 66

Understand the uses of the apostrophe in reading and writing.

Hyphens and dashes page 70

Identify and begin to understand the use of hyphens and dashes.

Refining punctuation in writing page 74

Consolidate the use of punctuation marks in writing.

