1. Focus

Explain Apostrophes in Sentences

Say: There are several uses for apostrophes in persuasive essays, as well as in other forms of writing. One use is to show ownership, or possession. (Write the following sentence: This is the pattern of a middle school student’s life.) When you want to show ownership by a singular noun such as the word student, you generally add an apostrophe and the letter s to the end of the noun. This is also true for plural nouns that don’t end with the letter s, such as in the word children’s. (Write the following sentence: This is the pattern of many middle school students’ lives.) When you want to show ownership by a plural noun ending with an s, you add only an apostrophe, after the s. In this sentence, an apostrophe appears alone after the plural noun students, to show ownership.

Say: In addition to using apostrophes to show ownership, we use them in contractions, to indicate that letters in a word are missing, such as in the contraction don’t standing for do not. Today we’ll learn about apostrophes used to show possession, as well as for other purposes.

Model Using Apostrophes in Sentences

Display the modeling text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. One day, the students find themselves in trouble they never imagined they’d be in.
2. Without their teachers’ positive influence, many students take risks.
3. School is an important part of many young people’s early lives.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: In this sentence, I see an apostrophe used in a contraction. The word they’d is a contraction that is short for the phrase they would. The apostrophe replaces the letters w-o-u-l in would.

Read sentence 2. Say: The word teachers’ in the second sentence shows possession. I see that the writer is telling about the influence of the teachers as a group. Teachers is a plural noun, so the apostrophe goes after the s.

Read sentence 3. Say: I see an apostrophe in the word people’s. This word shows possession by a plural noun—people. We add an apostrophe and a letter s to show possession by a singular noun or a plural noun that doesn’t end in s. So the writer’s use of an apostrophe makes sense in this sentence.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Apostrophes in Sentences

Display the practice text (without revisions) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with partners to decide how to use either a possessive or a contraction with an apostrophe. (Students do not need to copy the sentences.)

If your class includes English language learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Many parents limit their children’s video, Internet, and TV time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Students in other countries don’t seem to suffer from shorter vacation time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share Sentences with Apostrophes

Invite volunteers to share how they would insert apostrophes in each sentence. Discuss their choices as a class. Prompt with questions such as:

- **Sentence 1:** Why does the word children’s need an apostrophe and s?
- **Sentence 2:** What contraction is a shorter version of do not?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that there are several uses for apostrophes in sentences. Apostrophes are used to show ownership and in contractions. Use apostrophes in your writing when you want to show possession or when you use contractions.

If you would like to give students additional practice using apostrophes in sentences, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 8. Ask students to share what they learned about apostrophes.

Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Work with Beginning EL students in forming contractions. Write the following words on separate index cards: do, not, can, did, don’t, can’t, and didn’t. Show students how to join the two words together to form a contraction. For example, the word do plus the word not makes the contraction don’t. Help students understand which letters are replaced by an apostrophe in the contraction.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the practice activities and BLM 8. Use the following sentence frames to help both students in the pairs talk about apostrophes:

- ______ shows ownership.
- ______ is a contraction.