

44

LIFE SCIENCE



★ Contractions such as *don't* and *isn't* contain apostrophes. This versatile punctuation mark can also be use to designate:

- **a quotation within a quotation:** Dr. Brown said, “When I first learned of the study, I thought of the words, ‘**struck by lighting,**’ to describe how I felt.”
- **an omission of figures in date:** the Olympic Games of ‘04, the class of ‘10, in the ‘90s
- the measurement of feet: an excavation plot 15' x 30'

Apostrophes are also used to form possessive nouns and pronouns. Use the apostrophe before the *s* if the word is singular. Place the apostrophe after the *s* if it is plural.

singular Dr. **Ehlich's** work is celebrated at Stanford University.
The contributions of Stanford **University's** professors are celebrated worldwide.
“Those poor results are **someone's** fault,” she said, “but not mine.”
Your **boss's** approval can translate into a bonus for you.
The **stockholder's** claim that he was cheated was proven false.

plural The **students'** reports have improved.
The contributions of public **universities'** professors are undervalued worldwide.
Women's contributions to the study of genetics are often overlooked.
The **stockholders'** claim that they were cheated was proven false.

A Abbreviate the dates in the following sentences:

1. He graduated from college in 1999 with a degree in genetic engineering, but she studied for a graduate degree in paleontology from 1997 to 2003.
2. In the 1970s, the United States passed an important law to help preserve species, and in 1977, regulations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) took effect.
3. The American bald eagle was listed as endangered in 43 states in 1978.

B Punctuate the quotations in the following sentences.

1. The scientist expressed himself clearly when he said, We want to remember the words, We have nothing to fear, but fear itself, as we undertake this important mission.
2. He ended his remarks with, The results show which traits are inherited and which come from the environment—or as Dr. Johnson said, are derived from environmental constructs—and are published in this report.
3. The student said, I copied her inspiring words on the cover of my notebook, Do the best you can.

C Add apostrophes to the measurements in the following sentences.

1. The scientists studied the fossil which measured approximately 8 x 10.
2. The fossil of a dinosaur 5 high by 10 long was compressed into a space measuring 3 square.
3. How many cubic yards are dirt are in a plot which measures 13 x 26?

D If the possessives in the following sentences are formed correctly, mark C; if not, mark X.

- _____ 1. Dr. Brays position is clear.
- _____ 2. The American Zoo and Aquarium Associations “Species Survival Plan” in 1999 protected 67 mammals.
- _____ 3. What was Harvard biologist Edward Wilson’s famous remark?
- _____ 4. In Niles Eldredge’s 1998 book, it was reported that 30,000 plant and animal species are lost each year.
- _____ 5. For him, paleontology was a hobby; then, this do-it-yourselfer’s obsession turned into a career.