

Exercise on the Use of the Apostrophe

In the following pairs, one sentence is correct, and the other sentence has an incorrect use of an apostrophe or a missing apostrophe. Mark the CORRECT answer.

1. A _____ The television lost it's picture.
B _____ The television lost its picture.

Answer A is incorrect. *It's* means *it is*. Remember to substitute *it is* or *it has* for *it's*. *The television has lost it is picture* does not make sense.

Answer B is correct.

2. A _____ Someone stole the two boys' backpacks, and the two boys were left stranded.
B _____ Someone stole the two boy's backpacks, and the two boys were left stranded.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. There are two boys, so the plural possessive is *boys'*.

3. A _____ Bob and Bill are going to the men's tennis tournament.
B _____ Bob and Bill are going to the mens' tennis tournament.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. The plural of *man* is *men*, so the plural possessive is *men's*. Remember, first make the noun plural; then make it possessive.

4. A _____ I must have had thirty call's yesterday.
B _____ I must have had thirty calls yesterday.

Answer A is incorrect. *Call's* is the possessive. *Calls* is the plural.

Answer B is correct.

5. A _____ The beautiful green parrot was hers.
B _____ The beautiful green parrot was her's.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. No apostrophe is added to personal pronouns to show possession.

6. A _____ It's impossible to pass the final exam
B _____ Its impossible to pass the final exam.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Its* is the possessive. *It's* is the contraction. Remember to substitute *it is* or *it has* when you use *it's*.

7. A _____ I needed the two weeks' vacation.
B _____ I needed the two week's vacation.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Week* is singular. *Weeks* is plural. Since the vacation is two weeks, the plural possessive is *weeks'*.

8. A _____ The birds' flew overhead.

B _____ The birds flew overhead.

Answer A is incorrect. *Birds'* is the plural possessive form. *Birds* is the plural, which is needed.

Answer B is correct.

9. A _____ He sing's in the choir at our church.

B _____ He sings in the choir at our church.

Answer A is incorrect. Do not add an apostrophe to a verb.

Answer B is correct.

10. A _____ The ladies' softball team won every game.

B _____ The ladie's softball team won every game.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Ladies* is the plural. Add an apostrophe at the end of the word.