I

[ə'ppstrəfi] n стил. апострофа риторическое обращение Ш [ə'pɒstrəfɪ] n лингв. апостроф

# apostrophe

apos-tro-phe [apostrophe apostrophes] BrE [ə'ppstrəfi]

1. the mark (') used to show that one or more letters or numbers have been left out, as in she's for she is and '63 for 1963

2. the mark (') used before or after the letter 's' to show that sth belongs to sb, as in Sam's watch and the horses' tails

3. the mark (') used before the letter 's' to show the plural of a letter or number, as in How many 3's are there in 9? and There are two m's in 'comma'.

### Word Origin:

mid 16th cent. (denoting the omission of one or more letters): via late Latin, from Greek apostrophos 'accent of elision' (showing a certain part of a word to be left out when pronouncing it), from apostrephein 'turn away', from apo 'from' + strephein 'to turn'.

## apostrophe

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

a postrophe /ə'ppstrəfi \$ ə'pa - BrE AmE noun [countable]

[Date: 1500-1600; Language: French; Origin: Late Latin apostrophus, from Greek, from apostrephein 'to turn away', from apo- ( <sup>†</sup>apocalypse) + strephein 'to turn'

a) the sign (') that is used in writing to show that numbers or letters have been left out, as in 'don't' (=do not) and '86 (=1986)

b) the same sign used before 's' to show that something belongs to someone or something, or is connected with them, as in 'John's book', or 'Charles' mother', or 'Henry's first year as a teacher'

c) the same sign used before 's' to show the plural of letters and numbers as in 'Your r's look like v's'.

#### . . . THESAURUS

types of punctuation mark

apostrophe the sign ' that is used to show that one or more letters or numbers have been left out, as in don't, or used before 's' to show that something belongs to someone or something, as in Mark's dog

- brackets British English, parentheses AmE and BrE formal a pair of signs used for enclosing information that interrupts a sentence

- colon the sign : that is used to introduce an explanation, example, quotation etc

- semicolon the sign; that is used to separate words in a list, or different parts of a sentence that can be understood separately

comma the sign, that is used to separate things in a list, or between two clauses in a sentence

• hyphen the sign – that is used to join words or syllables

- dash the sign — that is used to separate two closely related parts of a sentence, especially in more informal English

• full stop British English, period American English the sign . that is used to mark the end of a sentence or the short form of a word

• exclamation mark British English, exclamation point American English the sign ! that is used after a sentence or word that expresses surprise, anger, or excitement

- question mark the sign ? that is used at the end of a question

guotation marks (also inverted commas British English) a pair of signs ' and ' that are put around words, especially to show that you are quoting what someone has said

## apostrophe

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