

Apostrophes of omission

Put in the missing apostrophes in these examples.

1. Darren didnt like his new shoes.
2. Samantha wasnt very happy because shed lost her false teeth.
3. Tiffany wasnt late, so the teacher fell over in shock.
4. Anthony couldnt reach the table.
5. April and Chris wouldnt speak to each other.
6. Danielle isnt the smallest in the class, but she looks it.
7. Christian hadnt done his science homework, so his teacher was furious.
8. Natasha couldve won the lottery if shed bought a ticket.
9. Jamie shouldve remembered his book, but hed flushed it down the loo.
10. Nathan hadnt eaten the pies.
11. "Well go to the pictures to see the new James Bond film!" said Leanne to Tara.
12. "Cant I come too?" asked an upset Sarah.
13. Chloe and Harriet didnt grumble when the dinner lady gave them meat pie and custard on the same plate.
14. "Im not very quiet..." said Stacey.
15. "Youll make me sick if you do that!" moaned Adam.
16. Jordan shouldve told Jodie that hed taken her pencil case, but he didnt.
17. Sam and Charlotte didnt want to share their dolls with Tom, because he wouldnt give them back.
18. Anoushka didnt like Liam's singing, because he only sang his own songs.
19. Nicole said, "Ill tell my mum, if you pinch my lunch!"
20. Shane and Mark hadnt turned up, so they couldnt do the work that had been set.
21. Catherine didnt want to do the work.
22. Mia wouldnt talk in class.
23. "Lauras here!" shouted Rob.
24. Philipa couldnt do the test.
25. "Youre not going out dressed like that," insisted Dad.

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Fill in the table to indicate whether the apostrophe is in the right place or not. The first one is done for you as an example.

Sentence	Correct use of apostrophe	Incorrect use of apostrophe
Kurt did'nt understand.		✓
26. Joanna baked cookies but couldn't make trifle.		
27. Tom was'nt watching carefully.		
28. Tara di'dnt get it right.		
29. Elle couldn't understand why her DVD player had broken.		
30. Ed shouldn't have plugged it into that socket.		
31. "Are'n't you ready yet?"		
32. "Wo'nt you help me?"		
33. "Isn't that the correct answer?"		
34. Andy wished he had'nt boiled his haggis in the old saucepan.		
35. George should've played bass with the band, but the gig was cancelled.		

In these examples, you need to change the words to a shortened version with apostrophes. An example is given to you for the first one.

Words	Shortened version word	Words	Shortened version word
can not	can't		
36. should have		37. will not	
38. is not		39. we will	
40. I have		41. you will	
42. they have		43. had not	
44. he had		45. she had	

/45