Apostrophes

To show possession	• If the noun is singular and/or a plural noun not ending in 's,' add an apostrophe + s to show possession.
	  ○ Ex. Grandma's house, Sophie's paper, children's pool, or sheep's wool.
	• If a proper noun ends in an 's,' add an apostrophe + s to show possession.
	  ○ Ex. Alexis's cat, Lewis's novel, St. Louis's Arch, or Memphis's music.
	• If a plural noun ends in an 's,' follow the 's' with an apostrophe.
	  ○ Ex. drivers' cars, students' books, teachers' meetings, or tutors' tables.
	• If using a list of nouns, placement of the apostrophe(s) affects the meaning:
	  ○ Ex. Joe, Nick, and Kevin's songs (the songs belong to Joe, Nick, and Kevin together) or
	  ○ Joe's, Nick's, and Kevin's songs (the songs are unique to each of them).

To form a contraction
*Usually not acceptable in academic writing. You should spell out the two words.
	• The contraction takes the place of the removed letter(s), which is usually a vowel in the second word.
	  ○ cannot → can't
	  ○ do not → don't
	  ○ should have → should've
	• The difference with "it":
	  ○ it's → it is
	  ○ its → the possessive of "it" (this does not follow the first apostrophe rule)

To indicate plural forms of letters	• I earned three A's and one B. • There are two m's in the word "common."
Do not use	• Do not use an apostrophe to make a noun (including numbers and acronyms) plural. Ex. CD's → CDs, Congratulation's → Congratulations, or 1920's → 1920s (An exception with acronyms: if the acronym uses periods, use an apostrophe Ex. Ph.D.'s) • Do not use an apostrophe to pluralize a family name. Ex. Happy New Year from the Barry's → Happy New Year from the Barrys

Information gathered from "Hyphens and Dashes"- Writing Center University of Minnesota