

Apostrophe Quiz Key

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1:

1. Man's
2. Brother's
3. Brothers
4. Bess's, Louis's
5. Beaver's
6. Beavers
7. Canary's
8. Canary
9. Canaries
10. Elephants, Elephant's
11. Elephants'
12. Boy's
13. Potatoes
14. Farmer's, Potatoes
15. Farmers'
16. Woman's
17. Women's

Exercise 2:

1. Sawyer's
2. Twain's
3. author's
4. Finn's
5. Becky's

Exercise 3:

1. I'll
2. You're
3. Won't
4. Who's
5. They'll
6. He's
7. You've
8. She'll
10. They're
11. She's
12. They'll
13. Wouldn't
14. I'll
15. That's

Exercise 4:

1. He'll
2. It's
3. He's
4. You're
5. Who's
6. What's
7. What's
8. It's
9. She'll
10. They're

Exercise 5:

1. Mary's shoes
2. Teacher's personality
3. Dean's office
4. Children's toys
5. People's power
6. Women's love
7. Students' notebooks
8. Friend's cousin's husband

Exercise 5a:

1. father owns the book
2. my
3. apostrophe

Exercise 6:

1. instructor's text
2. woman's son
3. man's daughter
4. week's vacation
5. student's needs

Exercise 6a:

1. girls own toys
2. own
3. girls'

Exercise 7:

1. instructors' marks
2. students' residence
3. cousins' car
4. pupils' papers
5. aunts' present

Exercise 8:

1. Tom's mother flies jet planes.
2. The people's committee is making changes.
3. Linda's child is sick with the flu.
4. John's girl friend knows astrology.
5. Mr. Jones' cobra is very friendly.
6. Bobbie's class meets in Gould Hall.
7. My uncle's friend's basement is loaded with fascinating things.

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Exercise 9:

1. C
2. Bus's or Bus'
3. C
4. C
5. Yours (Yours should never have an apostrophe)
6. Girls', Boys'
7. C
8. C
9. Ours'
10. Workers'
11. Browns's or Browns'
12. C
13. C
14. Its
15. C
16. Its
17. C
18. Browns's or Browns'
19. Oxen's
20. C

Exercise 11

1. It's
2. Yours
3. Its
4. You're
5. Theirs
6. Boys'
7. Whose
8. N's, M's
9. Boys
10. Let's
11. '64
12. Boars'
13. Dogs'
14. Days'
15. Men's
16. Months'
17. That's
18. It's
19. Hers
20. Ours/Theirs

Exercise 10

1. David and Pat's gloves
2. The boys locker room
3. The person's personality
4. Charles' boat
5. Kenneth Roberts' or Roberts's novels
6. Its top
7. Week's delay
8. Day's events
9. Ladies' or Ladies's wraps
10. Ten minutes' wait or ten minutes's wait
11. Sun's rays
12. Men's shoes
13. Women's handbags
14. Story's meaning
15. Its meaning
16. Boss' or boss' office

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Exercise 12: Paragraph 1

Mrs. Bartlett is our town's strangest person. She has lived in the big house on Pine Street, without once setting foot outside, for more years than most people remember. In her yard she keeps several cocker spaniels that'll rip a stranger's pants in a second. While the regular mailman's face is familiar to the dogs, they treat a substitute mailman like a juicy bone. If the visitor is a friend, Mrs. B. (everyone's name for her) will invite him or her in for tea. Her gardener, Willy, watches the dogs while the person hurries to the porch. Willy's job, by the way, is also to serve as night watchman. Since he's almost seven feet tall, it's not surprising that no prowlers have troubled the property. Inside the house, a maid named Tina takes coats, but she is completely close-mouthed about what Mrs. B. is like. A curiosity-seekers' question will get only a scowl from her and a short, "That's not your business." People in general seem to respect this answer, and no one has really challenged the right of Mrs. B. to live life her own way.

Exercise 13: Paragraph 2

Working as a temporary house packer for Jerry's Moving Service was an enjoyable job for me. First of all, almost no other job allows a person to go into people's houses and see at close range how they live. I encountered a lot of interesting surprises. For example, one woman's house was as neat as a display room in a museum, but her basement was as littered as our town's dump. Another person had converted a bedroom into a small library. In the room there were about seven rows of storage shelves, all filled with issues of magazines like Reader's Digest and Redbook. Another positive feature of the job was the sharing of some close moments. Memories often were awakened as people helped pack up items from their past. Many couldn't stop talking once they started. I also liked this job because people would give me things they didn't want anymore. For instance, I received a lot of children's toys and a complete set of tools. In fact, my mother's cellar started filling with items I received from customers' cellars. Final benefits of the job included plenty of snacks and sodas and handsome tips when the job was over. In summary, as a temporary job, house packing was one of my favorites.

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Exercise 14: Paragraph 3

In a small park near the center of Millville, a group of bronze statues stands in a circle. Most of them are models of the individual rich men who provided money for the town's beginning. The center of the circle, however, is occupied by a nameless man. Citizens call him Joe because he's a symbol of the common man. Joe's clothes appear tattered, but his body seems strong. His face looks tired, but his eyes look proud. Many people who have stopped in the small park talk about that face when they leave. Each person Joe represents couldn't give money to the town but gave strength and sweat instead. A farmer's back worked to keep the town in food. A woman's hands wove, knitted, and sewed clothes. A blacksmith's arms struggled to provide horseshoes and tools. Joe's eyes must talk to passers-by. People seem to realize that without the ordinary man's help, that circle of rich men wouldn't exist.