

Testing Your Understanding: The Apostrophe

Place the apostrophe where needed in the following sentences. Cross out any misplaced apostrophes. If the sentence is correct as written, indicate with a “C.” An answer key follows.

1. The final score on your test reflected that your improving in math.
2. Cheryl’s and Jeff’s marriage seems to be on rocky ground.
3. I have heard too many *sorry*’s today!
4. The bride accidentally destroyed her new brother’s-in-laws digital camera when she dropped it in the punch bowl.
5. I thought the dog lost it’s tail when the door slammed.
6. All the competitors numbers were printed upside down.
7. Are you sure you havent heard about the new policy?
8. I saw you washing Luis’s car yesterday.
9. Her husband is such a small man that he buys his clothes in the childrens department.
10. The newlyweds received three VCRs, two TVs and four toasters!

Answers below:

Answer Key:

1. The final score on your test reflected that **you’re** improving in math.(contraction vs. possessive pronoun)
2. **Cheryl and Jeff’s** marriage seems to be on rocky ground. (see # 4 – should indicate *joint* ownership)
3. I have heard too many **sorry’s** today! **C** (see # 4 – plural forms of words)
4. The bride accidentally destroyed her new **brother-in-law’s** digital camera when she dropped it in the punch bowl. (see # 4 – compound noun)
5. I thought the dog lost **its** tail when the door slammed. (*possessive pronoun* vs. contraction)

6. All the **competitors'** numbers were printed upside down. (see # 2 – plural noun ending in s)
7. Are you sure you **haven't** heard about the new policy? (see # 1 – contraction)
8. I saw you washing Luis's car yesterday. **C** (see # 2 – singular noun ending in s)
9. Her husband is such a small man that he buys his clothes in the **children's** department. (see # 2 – plural noun not ending in s)
10. The newlyweds received three VCRs, two TVs and four toasters! **C** (see # 4 - *MLA format*)