Writing Center—Beirut

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The use of Apostrophes

A- Use an apostrophe to form the possessive:

1- Add -‘s to a singular or plural noun that does not end in –s.
Example: Man’s coat
Men’s coats

2- Add -‘ to a plural noun ending in –s.
Example: Girls’ clothes

3- Add -‘ or -‘s to a singular noun ending in –s.
Example: Denis’ house
Denis’s house

4- Add -‘s to indefinite nouns.
Example: Everybody’s work

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B- Use an apostrophe to indicate that letters and numbers have been
omitted:
Example: Can’t
O’clock
‘80s

C- Use an apostrophe to indicate the plural of letters, numbers, and words used as words.
Example: Five 8’s
And’s
Dot your i’s.

D- Use an apostrophe with pronouns only when you are making a
contraction.
Example: Who’s the leader?
It’s a problem.

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