

Grammar for Developers

Apostrophes

3 Simple Rules

1. **Never make a pronoun possessive using an apostrophe**
2. **Always make a noun possessive using an apostrophe**
3. **Never use an apostrophe with a verb**

3 Common Mistakes

Right: Unit testing has **its** benefits.

Wrong: Unit testing has **it's** benefits.

Right: **Carol's** code is clean. Her **code's** style is precise.

Wrong: **Carols** code is clean. Her **codes** style is precise.

Right: He **runs** that backup every day.

Wrong: He **run's** that backup every day.

All Three: "Jake's Jeep runs at its worst, yet it's his best car."

A **noun** is a specific person, place, thing or idea:
Carol, France, house, radish, memory, Chipotle.

A **verb** is an action taken by the subject.
He *codes*. She *tests*. They *demonstrate*.

A **pronoun** is a generic, non-specific person or thing.
These are the common pronouns: it, he, she, her, them, they.