Apostrophes

- **Apostrophes** form the possessive case, indicate omissions in contractions, and, in some cases, form plurals.
Possessive Case!

- Remember back to the brief discussion of the possessive case from the other morning.
- Possessive case indicates ownership.
- You may have seen me note on your papers -- Possessive case
- In English, there was two ways to do this:
  - A phrase with the word "of" included
  - The hands of the clock
Possessive Case!

- or...
- With an apostrophe
- The *clock's* hands

- Singular nouns & certain forms of pronouns
- To form possessive case, add an 's
- ”The Monk's Tale” is one of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.
- When we would arrive was anyone's guess.
Pause!

- Pause.
- Take a breath.
- Questions?
Singular Nouns Ending In -s

- In most cases, to form the possessive case of singular nouns that end in -s you will add 's
- Reading Henry James's *The Ambassadors* was not Maris's idea of fun.
- The class's time was changed to 8am.
- But...
- Some singular nouns at that end in -s sound awkward when pronouncing the possessive ending as a separate syllable.
Singular Nouns Ending In -s

- When this happens, grammarians have deemed it acceptable to just add an apostrophe.
- Borges' short stories
- Crispus Attucks' death
- Aristophanes' play
- Generally, use your best judgment.
If title already has 's, use a phrase to form possessive case

Awkward: A Midsummer Night's Dream's staging presents a challenge.

Revised: The staging of A Midsummer Night's Dream presents a challenge.
Plural Nouns Ending In -s

- Already plural nouns get an ' when already ending in -s
- *The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature* is available online.
- The Lopezes' three children are triplets.
- Compound nouns also get an -s
- He accepted the secretary of state's resignation under protest.
Pause!

- Pause.
- Take a breath.
- Questions?
Two or More Items

- This one is tricky!
- To indicate **individual** ownership of two or more items, add -'s to **each** item.
- Ernest Hemingway's and Gertrude Stein's writing styles have some similarities.
- The indicate **joint** ownership, add -'s only to the last item.
- Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas include *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado*.
Done!