Module 1 Unit 1
Grammar: Apostrophes

The Rule

Apostrophes are used in two ways:

1. They indicate that two words have been joined together into a shortened form. The words being joined are usually:
   - a pronoun and a verb (e.g. *we have - we've, he will - he'll*);
   or
   - a verb and the word not (e.g. *do not - don't, has not - hasn't*). These shortened forms are called contractions.

2. They indicate possession or ownership of the noun that comes after them in the sentence (e.g. *the dog's tail, the people's choice, the tourists' luggage*).
   These forms are called possessives.

Three simple rules for possessives:

- You use 's with singular nouns (e.g. *the dog's tail*).
- You use s' with regular plural nouns when you want to show not only plurality but also ownership (e.g. *the tourists' luggage*).
- You use 's with irregular plural nouns (e.g. *the people's choice*).