Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Apostrophe Rules and Practice

Apostrophes are used and tested in two different ways:

1. Possessives
2. Contractions

**Possessives**

Possessives are often confused with plurals. An apostrophe defines who or what something belongs to. The word in front of the apostrophe is the owner of what follows the apostrophe.

**Singular** – To make a noun possessive add ‘s to the noun.

Ex. Boy’s toy

Helen’s cookbook

Marc’s plane

**Plural** – To make a plural noun possessive add ‘ is it ends with s or ‘s if not.

Ex. Teachers’ lounge

Students’ homework assignment

Children’s playground

**Contractions**

An apostrophe is used to show a letter or letters have been deleted from a word.

* It’s/it is
* They’re/They are
* We’ve/We have
* Would’ve/Would have

Watch out for similar words that look like contracted ones like its instead of it’s. Read it carefully and determine if it should be a contraction of two words or a single word.

**Apostrophe Practice**

And now my ride is finished for today. I leave the trail and come out into the open, manicured park at the trails end. There, my older brother helps me out of my chair and into his waiting van. He puts Luigi in the back, and I return to the world of pavement, streetlights, and traffic. But in my mind, I am still gliding through the forest. I am like the water, flowing over ancient stones. Inside, I am still a dragonfly.

1. Using the underlined word in the passage choose the best answer:

a. NO CHANGE

b. trail’s

c. trails’

d. trails’s

Even in an age of big-screen televisions, their is still no show on Earth as big as the night sky.

1. Using the underlined word in the passage above choose the best answer:
   1. A. NO CHANGE
   2. B. they’re
   3. C. there
   4. D. but there

Lee’s first anvil cost him $100, and four months later, he paid $75 for an additional implement—a vice—from Cornell University in New York. This important tool also made its way back to Michigan in the back of Lee’s 4-H bus.

1. Using the underlined word in the passage above choose the best answer:
   1. NO CHANGE
   2. it’s
   3. its’
   4. the
2. Scorpions will sting anyone they accidentally encounter as they crawl inadvertently 38 into human habitats. Most problems occur at construction sites where the scorpions natural homes have been upset and uprooted by bulldozers and dump trucks.
3. NO CHANGE
4. scorpion’s naturally
5. scorpion natural
6. scorpions’ natural