Apostrophes

‘s, etc.

To show possession

This is David’s house.

In this case ‘s is added to David to show possession.

If the person or thing’s name ends in s:

This is Mavis’s song.

Or: This is Mavis’ song.

Both are considered correct.

Tom Robbins’ novel *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*

1950s is correct.

Or we might shorten it to the ‘50s.

But the 50’s is incorrect. And 1950’s is usually incorrect.

“Starlight Dancing” was one of the most popular songs of the 1950s. The year 1950’s biggest hit was “Starlight Dancing” would technically be correct because you are referring to something belonging (possessed by) a certain year, but there’s no apostrophe when you’re referring to the entire decade.

Because the other thing apostrophes do is to show where letters (or numbers) are intentionally missing.

So madam becomes ma’am.

Do not = don’t

There are a few weird ones:

IT IS WEIRD!

It’s = It is. It’s weird that no one’s here.

Its = possessive (no ‘s even though it shows possession)

The dog ate its food.

WHO IS WEIRD

Who’s = Who is. He’s the man who’s going to be king.

Whose = possession. So **whose** bones are they?