

**JULIUS CAESAR:
ACT 4
YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6
PUNCTUATION EXERCISE: POSSESSIVE APOSTROPHES**

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A possessive apostrophe is used to show that one thing belongs to or is connected to something.

Read the examples below:

1. **Mark Antony's** army were ready to fight.

Mark Antony is a singular noun so you need to add an apostrophe and "s" to show that the **army** belongs to **Mark Antony**.

2. The **soldiers'** swords were pulled out, ready to fight.

Soldiers is a plural noun that ends in an "s" so you don't add another "s" after your apostrophe. You can just add an apostrophe to show the **swords** belonged to the soldiers.

3. **People's** tongues were wagging.

People is a plural noun but it doesn't end with an "s" so you need to add an apostrophe and "s" to show that the **tongues** belonged to the **people**.

1. **Brutus'** mouth couldn't utter the words.

Brutus is a singular noun that ends in an "s", so you need to add an apostrophe to show that the **mouth** belongs to **Brutus**.

Useful videos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwwxnb/articles/zx9ydxs>

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Exercise 1: Rewrite each sentence, adding in the possessive apostrophe

1. Octavius Caesars sword glinted in the sunlight.

2. Cassius voice echoed across the battlefield.

3. Lepidus hand shook as he agreed his brother must die.

4. Brutus face turned pale with fear.

5. Mark Antonys friends were loyal and trustworthy.

6. The ghosts face appeared from the shadows.

7. Tears rolled down Brutus face.

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Exercise 2: Read the passage below. Then make up your own sentences using possessive apostrophes.

As we begin act 4, Octavius Caesar has arrived in Rome. He is Julius Caesar's adopted son, and he's desperate to seek revenge on the men who murdered his father. In a cold dark room, he meets with Mark Antony and a Roman soldier called Lepidus. These three, by the light of a candle, are plotting. They are deciding which Romans are loyal and which are not. They are also making sure that anyone they think is disloyal *to them* will meet a terrible end. People's names are written down in a book and once their names are "prick'd" into the book, they will be gone!

To show how serious the three of them are, even Lepidus's own brothers's name is written down in the book! They think he is a traitor!

"Your brother must die, consent you Lepidus?" said young Octavius

"I do consent", said Lepidus firmly, without even a tear in his eye. That is harsh behaviour.

These three - Octavius, Lepidus and Mark Antony- form what is known as a triumvirate: tri, because there's three of them, like a tricycle or a triangle or a triceratops, see?

Meanwhile, Brutus and Cassius have got their armies together and set up camp near a place called Philippi. Things haven't been going very well for them and Brutus has recently had some bad news. Brutus and Cassius are keeping their armies apart, but close to each other. Cassius arrives at Brutus's camp and immediately starts an argument. They are both tired and hungry and finding it difficult to keep their tempers.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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ANSWERS

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3. Lepidus' hand shook as he agreed his brother must die.
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5. Mark Antony's friends were loyal and trustworthy.
6. The ghost's face appeared from the shadows.
7. Tears rolled down Brutus' face.

Exercise 2: Just make sure in any sentence it is a possessive apostrophe that has been used correctly and not a contraction.