

Apostrophes

The apostrophe (') has two uses! The First is to show that a letter or letters have been missed out when two words have been joined together. E.g. can not → Can't



The second is to show that the next word in the sentence belongs to the word with the apostrophe. E.g. That is Bradley's book. Or Saturday's music festival was good. Or April's weather was poor.

there, they're and their

You must make sure that you use the correct one in your writing

Does the word after it belong to them?

YES

their

NO



Can you replace it with they are?

YES

they're

NO



there

Capital letters

There are only two occasions where you can use a capital letter. One is obvious. When you begin a new sentence (after a full stop) you should always start your next sentence with a capital letter.



The other covers a lot more. You have to use a capital letter whenever you use a proper noun. This means for names of people (first names and surnames), names of places, days, months, and pretty much anything that's not an object!

Commas

The key to using commas is that you don't use too many. A comma goes in a sentence where you need a pause between two ideas. They can also act like brackets around an extra piece of information. E.g. The table, which was made of wood, was in the middle of the room.

Shew is not a word!

The past tense of the verb to show is showed!
E.g. I showed him how to do it.



When you're writing descriptively, imagine that you are a camera with a zoom lens focusing in on really tiny details of a scene.



Making your essays sound better

Rather than using the same old "this shows" all of the time, try using some of these other words. If you vary the words you use, your whole essay will sound better. After a quote, place a comma and one of these before explaining it; or add the phrase "This is" before one of these phrases.



Indicating Suggesting
 portraying **ILLUSTRATING**
 conveying depicting demonstrating
 Good Words