

AMA Manual of Style

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Possessive of Compound Terms

Cheryl Iverson

Print Publication Year: 2007 Published Online: 2009
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Item type: section

Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/jama/9780195176339.022.371

Use 's after only the last word of a compound term. |

Joint Possession

Cheryl Iverson

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When joint possession is being shown with nouns, or with an organization's or business firm's name, use the possessive form only in the last word of the noun or name. Food and Drug Administration's policy Farrar, Straus & Giroux's books Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Task Force Hammond and Horn's study When possession is individual, each noun takes the possessive form. We matched the infant's and mother's records. Note: When one of the nouns takes a possessive pronoun, the other nouns take the possessive as well. I presented the intern's and my workups. |

Using Apostrophes to Form Plurals

Cheryl Iverson

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Do not use an apostrophe to indicate the plural of a name. Do not use an apostrophe in the name of an organization in which the qualifying term is used as an adjective or an attributive rather than a possessive. Of course, always follow the official name. Use 's to indicate the plural of letters, signs, or symbols spoken as such, or words referred to as words when s alone would be confusing. Note the italics with inflectional ending in roman type for words, letters, and numbers but not for symbols and signs. He uses too many and's. The manuscript editor

Units of Time and Money as Possessive Adjectives

Cheryl Iverson

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With units of time (minute, hour, day, month, year, etc) used as possessive adjectives, an 's is added. The same holds true for monetary terms: |

Prime

Cheryl Iverson

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Item type: section

Do not use an apostrophe where a prime sign is intended. Do not use a prime sign as a symbol of measurement. (See also , Nomenclature, Drugs, Chemical Names.)The methyl group was in the 5# position. |

Omission Within a Sentence

Cheryl Iverson

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If the ellipsis occurs within a sentence, ellipses represent the omission. Instead, he shows a... grid lit by centers of rounded forms, brilliantly colored. In some such instances, additional punctuation may be used on either side of the ellipses if it helps the sense of the sentence or better shows the omission. Instead, he shows a stark, rectangular grid..., brilliantly colored. If the quotation itself contains ellipses, to make clear that the ellipses were part of the original a note to this effect should be included in brackets. |

Omission at the End of a Sentence or Between Complete Sentences

Cheryl Iverson

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If the ellipsis occurs at the end of a complete sentence, or between 2 complete sentences, ellipses follow the final punctuation mark, the final punctuation mark being set close to the word preceding it, even when this word is not the final word in that sentence in the original. In Fruit Displayed on a Stand (cover), exhibited in 1882, Caillebotte depicts a traditional subject in a manner far removed from the traditional.... Instead, he shows a stark, rectangular grid lit by centers of rounded forms, brilliantly colored. |

Grammatically Incomplete Expressions

Cheryl Iverson

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The sentence within which an ellipsis occurs should be a grammatically complete expression. However, ellipses and no period may be used at the end of a sentence fragment to indicate that it is purposely grammatically incomplete. Complete the sentence “When I retire, I plan to ...” in 20 words or less. |

Disclaimer

Cheryl Iverson

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Omissions in Verse

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Item type: section

Use 1 line of em-spaced dots to indicate omission of a full line or several consecutive lines of verse. Sometimes you say it’s smaller. Today you said it was a touch larger, and would change. Marc Straus, MD, “Autumn” |