

## 1101'S ONE-OF-A-KIND APOSTROPHE TEST

**Purpose** - This exercise is designed as a fun class "test" in the use of apostrophes. Use it if you're finding many such errors in student writing.

**Description** - In groups, or individually, students read the following paragraphs in search of apostrophe errors. Go over the key with the class. A good exercise to pair with the *McGraw Hill Handbook*.

**Suggested Time** - 50 minute class period.

**Procedure** - Print copies of the following story to distribute to your class. If you like, this can be a take-home assignment to be paired with the *McGraw Hill Handbook*. Students can work individually or in groups.

### 1101'S ONE-OF-A-KIND APOSTROPHE TEST HANDOUT:

"Well," said the Captains wife "I knew it might come to this. Hes been hinting about NASAs plans for some time now; its scary but if he has to go on this 5 year survey of the Gindari system, well, he has to go . . . Im a military wife . . . and the militarys always come first with Glen." she finished, somewhat sadly. Then she looked imploringly at the General. "Please General Henderson, youve got to tell me! Do the researchers plans include trying to contact any possible inhabitants of that star system? I mean, what if theyre not very friendly?"

"Oh now Mrs. Lovelace," chuckled the General "Youre letting your imaginations worst fears prey on your mind! The possibilities of other beings contacting us are minuscule at best! But remember, your closest friends concerns must not tempt you into telling them the truth about your husbands mission! NASAs plans are too sensitive to publicly discuss just yet; weve been waiting for the right time . . . it could come at a moments notice . . ." and though he finished speaking, the Generals lips continued to move as he stared dreamily off into space.

All of a sudden, Mrs. Lovelace screamed "YOWWWEEEEEEZ!" The cats tail had brushed against her fetchingly exposed calves, and in her reverie its unexpected presence had startled her. The General looked at her with some concern and not a little admiration. "Ive heard some screams in my time Mrs. Lovelace, but thats a 10 if I ever heard one!"

Mrs. Lovelace smirked back at him. "Do you often rate women as 10s, General?" she asked coyly. Suddenly, the General was reminded of his old Sunday school; the churchs school room had displayed Moses ten commandments, and for some reason "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife" popped into his mind just then.

Mrs. Lovelace, her hands maintaining a constant, expressive summary of their own, continued: "Glens been planning for some time now to be gone . . . at times Ive almost felt as if hes already left; our Friday night get-togethers havent happened for some time . . .," and then both of her hands constant gesturing suddenly ceased as she clasped the generals arm and said in her best bedroom voice "Hell be gone a long time, wont he General? And admit it, youre a part of the project too. When he does

return, the projects next subject will you be, isnt that right? Shame to lose yet another sexy man to space . . .”

The General's mouth felt very dry as he admitted “You're right . . . Lois . . . upon Glen's return, I'll be shipping out for my stretch at . . .”

“Dont,” Lois's hands seemed to say as she lay one gently against the General's lips, stroking his bald head with the other. The General's mind became a blank of non-verbals: yowzas and hubba-hubbas filled his head.

“But Lois, its not right!” he managed to say, just before Lois's eyes rolled back into her head, her scalp split open, her skin's seams quickly detached from each other (dropping to the floor) and her four claws talons raked through the General's stomach, eviscerating him in one fell swoop.

“Good,” thought the Scanlon Didtrac from the Gindari system as it stepped through the entrails mess and re-gathered its ‘woman-suit’, once more situating itself into Lois's appearance. “These busy-body earthlings never seem to know when they're not welcome! Now lets see about one last Fridays get-together with Glen.”

#### 1101'S ONE-OF-A-KIND APOSTROPHE TEST ANSWER KEY

“Well,” said the *Captain's* wife “I knew it might come to this. *He's* been

- the wife of the captain

hinting about *NASA's* plans for some time now; it's scary but if he has to go

- the plans of NASA

on this 5 year survey of the Gindari system, well, he has to go . . . *I'm* a military wife . . . and the *military's* always come first with Glen.” she finished, somewhat sadly. Then she looked imploringly at the General. “Please General Henderson, *you've* got to tell me! Do the *researchers'* plans include trying to contact any possible inhabitants of that star

- the plans of the researchers (there are many researchers/ i.e., plural noun)

system? I mean, what *they're* not very friendly?”

“Oh now Mrs. Henderson,” chuckled the General “*You're* letting your

*imagination's* worst fears prey on your mind! The possibilities of other beings

- the fears of your imagination

contacting us are minuscule at best! But remember, your closest *friends'* concerns must

- the concerns of your friends (plural).

not tempt you into telling them the truth about your *husband's* mission!*NASA's* plans are too sensitive to publicly discuss just yet; *we've* been waiting for the right time . . . it could come at a *moment's* notice . . .” and though he finished speaking, the *General's* lips

- **the notice of a moment**

continued to move as he stared dreamily off into space.

Mrs. Henderson thought to herself, “Why, *that’s* just like *Harry’s* new, weird habit! The General must be involved in this thing . . . YOWWWEEEEEEZ!” she screamed aloud. The *cat’s* tail had brushed her, and in her reverie its unexpected presence startled her. The General looked at her with some concern.

“I’ve heard some screams in my time Mrs. Henderson, but *that’s* a 10 if I ever heard one!”

Mrs. Henderson smirked back at him. “Do you often rate women as *10’s*,

- **Use an apostrophe to pluralize numbers mentioned as numbers**

General?” she asked coyly. Suddenly, the General was reminded of his old Sunday school; the *church’s* school room had displayed *Moses’* ten commandments, and for some

- **the school room of the church (singular noun, add ‘ + s).**

reason “Thou shalt not covet thy *neighbor’s* wife” popped into his mind just then.

Mrs. Henderson, both of her hands maintaining a constant, expressive summary of their own, continued: “*Glen’s* been planning for some time now to be gone . . . at times I’ve almost felt as if *he’s* already left; our Friday night get-togethers *haven’t* happened for some time . . . ,” and then her *hands’* constant gesturing suddenly ceased as she

- **there are 2 hands and THEY are doing something: the gestures of her hands (plural).**

clasped the *general’s* arm and said in her best bedroom voice “*He’ll* be gone a long time, *won’t* he General? And admit it, *you’re* a part of the project too. When he does return, the *project’s* next subject will be you, *isn’t* that right? Shame to lose another sexy man to space . . .

The *General’s* mouth felt very dry as he admitted “*You’re* right . . . Lois

. . . upon *Glen’s* return, *I’ll* be shipping out for my stretch at . . . .”

“*Don’t,*” *Lois’s* hands seemed to say as she lay one gently against the *General’s*

- **Lois ENDS in s, so a singular noun is possessing something, add ‘ + s**

lips and softly stroked his bald head with the other.

The *General’s* mind became a blank of non-verbals: *yowza’s* and *hubba-hubba’s* filled his head.

- **Use apostrophe + s to pluralize words mentioned AS words**

“But Lois, *it’s* not right!” he managed to say, just before *Lois’s* eyes rolled

back into her head, her scalp split open, her *skin's* seams quickly detached from each

- **the seams of her skin (i.e., what's possessed is plural, but the possessor is singular).**

other, dropping to the floor, and her four *claws'* talons raked through the *General's*

- **she has more than one claw, and they possess those nasty talons, so apostrophe ONLY.**

stomach, eviscerating him in one fell sweep.

“Good.” thought the Scanlon Didtrac from the Gindari system as it stepped

through the entrails' mess and re-gathered its 'woman-suit', once more situating itself

- **entrails is a plural noun: they are possessing the mess, so s + apostrophe only.**

into *Lois's* appearance. “These busy-body earthlings never seem to know when *they're* not welcome! Now *let's* see about one last *Friday's* get-together with Glen.”