

## Aggie Grammar Guide: Apostrophes

### Answer Key

#### Intermediate Practice

- 1) Rock climbing is important in **Travis' or Travis's** social activities and relationships. (Either option is correct)
- 2) Discrimination is present in **today's** society, and **there's** still a stereotype that prevents society as a whole from progressing.
- 3) Anarchism is a political philosophy which means that people believe that a stateless society will make **people's** lives better.
- 4) The most important thing to enjoy **your** life is to be thankful for everything.
- 5) My brother is a Mexican American in his late **30s**, is covered with tattoos, and wears a muscle shirt.
- 6) I recommend fixing the uneven locks inside every stall of the **women's** bathroom in Giedt Hall.
- 7) The beach **cruiser's** style looks stupid because **it's** wide and clunky.
- 8) After reading this article, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot relate to the **author's or authors'** main point, even though global warming is something that affects everyone worldwide. (Either option could be correct, depending on whether there are one or many authors)
- 9) To a country, the aerospace industry is very significant to **its** development.
- 10) In **Bradley's and Engelstein's** articles, the authors each look at the same empirical data and information about Russia during the **1800s**. (The word **each** shows that only one interpretation is correct – that the authors wrote separate articles.)

## Advanced Practice

- 1)
- A. Grammatical. **They're** is a contracted form of **they are**, so the sentence has a verb.
  - B. Ungrammatical. **Their** is possessive and the sentence lacks a verb.
  - C. Grammatical. **Their** is possessive and the sentence has the verb **are**.
  - D. Grammatical. **They're** is a contracted form of **they are**, so the sentence has a verb.
- 2)
- A. Grammatical. One friend has one nice apartment.
  - B. Grammatical. Many friends share one nice apartment.
  - C. Grammatical. Many friends have one nice apartment.
  - D. Ungrammatical. **Friend's** is either a contracted form of **friend is** or the possessive form, but either way the sentence is ungrammatical.
- 3)
- A. Grammatical. **John Brooks** is a singular proper noun and as a possessive is either **John Brooks'** or **John Brooks's**.
  - B. Grammatical. No possessive is used because **Brooks** is functioning as an adjective describing **family**.
  - C. Ungrammatical. **Brookses'** is the possessive form; what's needed is the plural form **Brookses**.
  - D. Grammatical. **Brookses'** is the plural possessive, and the entire Brooks family owns the letter.
- 4)
- A. Grammatical. They have children together.
  - B. Grammatical. They both have children but not with each other.
  - C. Grammatical. They both have children but not with each other. **Lewis'** is an alternate form of **Lewis's**.
  - D. Ungrammatical. **Children** is not possessive.