

AS QUESTÕES DE 17 A 24 REFEREM-SE A LÍNGUA ESTRANGEIRA (INGLÊS – PÁG. 07 OU FRANCÊS – PÁG. 09)

VOCÊ DEVERÁ RESPONDER ÀS QUESTÕES RELATIVAS AO IDIOMA PELO QUAL OPTOU NO ATO DA INSCRIÇÃO

LÍNGUA INGLESA – QUESTÕES DE 17 A 24

Are You Killing the Apostrophe?

1 I'm pretty much anti-war. I'm especially opposed to it when it's war on punctuation – especially on a mark as weak and
2 defenseless as the apostrophe. The apostrophe is the only punctuation mark we have that floats by itself in midair. At least quotation
3 marks have a buddy. So you can only imagine what it must feel like for it to take abuse from all quarters, with no one to defend it. Let
4 us count the ways the apostrophe is under attack:

5 First, considering signs and statues, someone recently photographed a sign at a playground that said, "KIDS PLAY AREA
6 FOR RESIDENT' S AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY." Where an apostrophe was called for, after *kids*, none was inserted. Instead, one
7 was shoved where it didn't belong, into *resident's*. These sorts of errors are all over, of course. But it gets worse.

8 Second, in the halls of government, the British government has, in essence, declared war on the apostrophe. Well, OK, not the
9 entire British government. But in Birmingham, England's second largest city, street signs will soon be without apostrophes.
10 Journalists have reported that officials there have been sniping away at the apostrophe since the 1950s. Residents fought back for a
11 half-century, exhorting their elected leaders to restore the apostrophes in the likes of *St. Pauls Square* and *Acocks Green*. Despite
12 the good fight, the Birmingham Council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable.
13 "Apostrophes denote possessions that are no longer accurate, and are not needed," Councilor Martin Mullaney said. "More
14 importantly, they confuse people. If I want to go to a restaurant, I don't want to have an A-level [high school diploma] in English to
15 find it." The first objection is laughable. *St. Paul* never actually owned the square. And why is *St. Pauls* more accurate? That only
16 makes it sound as though you'll find multiple saints there. We know England is a ways from her glory days, but we can't believe Brits
17 would need high school diplomas to read apostrophes. What's especially vexing is that Mullaney removed the apostrophes to end
18 the debate. If he really wanted to end it, he would have made sure the apostrophes were correct.

19 Third, related to the ivory tower, in a 1995 issue of *English Journal*, an actual English teacher named Peter Brodie called
20 apostrophes "largely decorative." Largely decorative! Apostrophes are no more decorative than doorways. They take the meaning of
21 letters from one place to another. Just look at the difference between the words *he'll* and *hell*. Apostrophes have several uses: a)
22 they show possession. It's the Queen's English. Just add an apostrophe plus "s" to a word and it's a possessive; b) they also indicate
23 contractions: This is how *will not* becomes *won't*, and *cannot* becomes *can't*. Wont and cant are different words; and c) they indicate
24 missing characters. So you'd write "the ' 80s" when you're talking about the 1980s. Once you have these three rules down, there are
25 just two more common errors to overcome: confusing *you're* with *your* and *it's* with *its*.

(BROCKENBROUGH, M. *Are you killing the apostrophe?* Available in: <http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/Features/Columns/?article=ApostropheCatastrophe>1=27004>. Retrieved on: May 4, 2009. Adapted.)

17. The underlined expression in the sentence "We know England is a ways from her glory days [...]" (line 16) is equivalent in meaning to:

- a) England is very distant from her powerful days.
- b) England is as powerful as it used to be.
- c) England is not really distant from glory.
- d) England is lost in her glorious days.

18. The underlined expression in the sentence, "These sorts of errors are all over [...]" (line 7), means that these errors:

- a) have ended.
- b) have to be overcome.
- c) are corrected.
- d) are everywhere.

19. The sentence “Despite the good fight, the Birmingham Council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable.” (lines 11-12) can be rewritten, without changing its meaning, into:
- a) Because it was a good fight, the Birmingham Council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable.
 - b) Given the fact that it was a good fight, the Birmingham Council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable.
 - c) Notwithstanding the good fight, the Birmingham council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable.
 - d) Thus, the Birmingham Council decided to do away with the apostrophes anyway for the most stupid reasons imaginable. It was a good fight.
20. According to the text, the apostrophe is used to indicate all of the following, EXCEPT:
- a) contractions.
 - b) mistakes.
 - c) missing characters.
 - d) possession.
21. According to the text, the apostrophe has been under attack because it is:
- a) incorrect and laughable.
 - b) decorative and laughable.
 - c) confusing and incorrect.
 - d) decorative and confusing.
22. According to the text, the apostrophe is important to:
- a) insert quotation marks in names of squares.
 - b) help people recognize a good restaurant.
 - c) convey meaning and possession.
 - d) enable high school students to read diplomas.
23. According to the text, the reason why The Birmingham Council removed the apostrophes was:
- a) to force the correct use of the apostrophe.
 - b) to stop the discussion.
 - c) to make sure the counselor was correct.
 - d) to go on with the conversation.
24. The sentence “[...] officials there have been sniping away at the apostrophe since [...]” (line 10) can be rewritten as:
- a) [...] officials there have been criticizing the apostrophe since [...].
 - b) [...] officials there have been adhering to new norms of the apostrophe since [...].
 - c) [...] officials there have been adding rules to the apostrophe since [...].
 - d) [...] officials there have been showing off the apostrophe since [...].