

**EXERCISE 36-2 The apostrophe** Before working this exercise, read section 36 in *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition.

- A. Each of the following sentences has two words containing apostrophes. Only one of the apostrophes is used correctly in each sentence. Delete or move the other apostrophe. Example:

Further back in American history, one woman's soldiering had made her famous; no one has yet had a story to match ~~her's~~.  
<sup>hers.</sup>  
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1. Deborah Sampson never dreamed that she would someday fight in battles' for American independence, much less that the battles' outcomes might depend on her.
2. Because her parents' income was not enough to support their children, Deborah was sent to live with relatives of her parents' in another town.
3. Later she was sent to live in a foster family with ten sons'; the sons' acceptance of her was wholehearted, and one son became her fiancé when she grew up.
4. The Revolutionary War was'nt over when news of his death reached Deborah; she wasn't long in making a major decision.
5. Determined that his place should become her's, she enlisted under a man's name.

- B. The following sentences contain no apostrophes. Add any that are needed. If a sentence is correct, mark it "OK." Example:

~~Who's~~      ~~who's~~  
~~Whose~~ to say ~~whos~~ right about Deborah Sampson's decision?  
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6. If men have the right to fight for their beliefs, should women have the right to fight for theirs?
7. Its clear that Deborah Sampson thought so; she enlisted twice to fight for hers.
8. On her first attempt, Sampson enlisted almost at the end of the day—and was discovered before its end arrived.
9. Though drinking was not a habit of hers, she spent her first evening as a soldier copying other new soldiers behavior.
10. Coming to the aid of this very noisy, very drunk, and very sick "buddy" of theirs, they soon were asking, "Whose this?"