

Some writers are confused by **you're** and **your**. A mistake involving these can spoil a great piece of work!

You're

You're is a **contraction** of **you are**. It has no other uses. This is a 100% rule. If you cannot expand it to **you are** in your sentence, then it is wrong.

Examples:

❑ I know you're leaving at 7 o'clock, but would you like another sherry? ✓
(Expands to **you are** - correct)

❑ Please ask Joan to post the parcel when you're in London.
(Expands to **you are** - correct)

❑ You said that you couldn't believe you're ears. ✗
(Does not expand to **you are** - should be **your**)

Your

The word **your** sits before another word (usually a **noun** or a **pronoun**) to show that it belongs to you (e.g., your car, your arm), is of you (e.g., your picture, your photograph) or is related to you (e.g., your uncle). **Your** is a **possessive adjective**. Other possessive adjectives are: my, your, his, her, its, our and their.

Examples:

❑ Our expert will answer your questions about pensions and savings. ✓
(questions belonging to you)

❑ Sarah doesn't look like your sister. ✓
(related to you)