

Apostrophe instead of an O-ending

- 1 The final O of a noun can be omitted. In that case, an **apostrophe** is written instead of O. However, it is only possible to omit the O ending when it is not followed by the J or N endings. In speech, the accent stays on the same syllable as usual, as if the O were still present:

2

turmento → turment' (turment')

historio → histori' (histori')

metroo → metro' (metrO').

ĉielo → ĉiel' (ĉiel').

- 3 It is not possible to use an apostrophe instead of an [A-ending](#), [E-ending](#) or [verb ending](#). Note that it is also not possible to use an apostrophe instead of the endings ON, OJ and OJN. **Har'** always means **haro** (hair), never **haron**, **haroj** (hairs) or **harojn**.

- 4 For some [table words ending in O](#), the final vowel "o" isn't a real O-ending, so those can't be replaced with apostrophes. It isn't possible, then, to use **ki'**, **ĉi'**, **ĉi'**, **ĉi'**, **ĉi'** instead of **kio**, **tio**, **io**, **ĉio**, **nenio**.

Apostrophe with la

- 5 The vowel "a" in the definite article **la** can be left out and replaced by an apostrophe. → **l'**. This short form is preferable only used after a preposition that ends in a vowel: **ĉe l'**, **tra l'**, **pro l'**:

6

Liberigu nin Dio, de l' sovaĝaj Normandoj! - Deliver us oh God from the savage Normans!

- 7 Note that **l'** is written as an independent word: **de l' maro** (not **de-l'maro'** or **de-l'maro**).

Mainly in poetry

- 8 Apostrophes are used in poetry mainly to avoid overuse of vowels.

Post longa migrado sur dorna **la voj'**
 Minacis nin ondoj de **l' maro**;
 Sed venkis ni ilin kaj velas kun **ĝoj'**
 Al verda **haven'** de **l' homaro**.
 Post longa batalo, maldolĉa **turment'**
 La stela standardo jam flirtas en **vent'**.

— *el La Tagiĝo de Antoni GRABOWSKI*

- 9 In ordinary language, apostrophes are very uncommon. In the spoken language, the apostrophe is rarely used at all as described here, for the abbreviation of words.

Dank' al

- 10 An apostrophe is also traditionally used in the expression **dank' al** (thanks to...), which shows the cause of something favorable, = "pro la (favora) influo de" ("due to the [favorable] influence of"). **Dank' al** appears in every register of use of the language, also in spoken form:

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Jes, **dank' al** Dio, ĉio estas en bona ordo. - Yes, thank God, everything is in good order.

Dank' al lia instruado mi sukcesis en la ekzameno. - Thanks to his teaching I passed the exam.

- 12 The expression **danke al** can be used with the same meaning.

Un'

- 13 When beats, rhythms, etc. are counted, an apostrophe form of the numeral **unu** (one) can also be used.

14

Un'! du! **un'!** du! — La soldatoj marŝis. = **Unu!** du!... - One! Two! One! Two! — The soldiers marched.

"Un', du, tri, kvar", li kalkulis laŭte. = **Unu**, du... - "One, two, three, four", he counted aloud.

- 15 **Un'** can only appear in independent form, as for use as an interjection, like in the examples above. It can't appear in ordinary sentences. It isn't possible to say, for example: **Mi havas nur un'amikon**. The only correct form is: **Mi havas nur unu amikon**. (I have only one friend)