Correct the errors in the use of apostrophes. Some sentences may be correct.

1. They'll be along anytime now.

2. My cat won't scratch you; don't worry.

3. As soon as we're in Hawaii, we'll call Aunt Lila.

4. My aunts houses are filled with antiques.

5. Tony's barber shop just opened on Main Street.

6. The babies' blankets need washing.

7. The mens' restroom is to the right; the women's is on the left.

8. Mr. Jones' company manufactures guns.


10. Both of my uncle's collect stamps and coins.

11. My mother's and father's computer needs repair.

12. Some dog's love chasing cars.

13. Have you ever seen a puppy chase its tail? It's really funny.

14. His desk is better than theirs, but yours is the finest in the office.

15. The public's right to know must be protected.

16. Bell-bottom jeans were popular in the 70's.
ANSWERS

1. They’ll be along anytime now. [Contraction of “they will”]

2. My cat won’t scratch you; don’t worry. [Contraction of “will not” and “do not”]

3. As soon as we’re in Hawaii, we’ll call Aunt Lila. [Contraction of “we are” and “we will”]

4. My aunts’ houses are filled with antiques. [Plural possessive form]

5. Tony’s barber shop just opened on Main Street. [Singular possessive form]

6. The babies’ blankets need washing. [Plural possessive form]

7. The men’s restroom is to the right; the women’s [restroom] is on the left. [To make them possessive, add ’s to non-standard plural words like men, women, and children.]

8. Mr. Jones’s company manufactures guns. Or Mr. Jones’ company…. [For names ending in s, add either ’s or only the apostrophe. Your teacher may have a preference; it’s best to ask.]

9. The children’s swing set needs painting. [Add ’s to non-standard plural words.]

10. Both of my uncles collect stamps and coins. [Plural, not possessive, form of uncle]

11. My mother and father’s computer needs repair. [To show joint ownership, add ’s only to the last person.]

12. Some dogs love chasing cars. [Plural, not possessive, form of dog]

13. Have you ever seen a puppy chase its tail? It’s really funny. [The word its is already possessive in meaning, so do not add an apostrophe. It’s is a contraction of it is.]

14. His desk is better than theirs, but yours is the finest in the office. [Correct]

15. The public’s right to know must be protected. [Singular possessive]

16. Bell-bottom jeans were popular in the ’70s. [To form the plural of a date or other number, do not add an apostrophe before the s. However, do use an apostrophe to show the omission of the numbers 19. Alternatively, write the date as “the 1970s” or “the seventies.”]