Grammar for Developers

Apostrophes

3 Simple Rules

1. Never make a pronoun possessive using an apostrophe

2. Always make a noun possessive using an apostrophe

3. Never use an apostrophe with a verb

3 Common Mistakes

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Right: Unit testing has its benefits.
Wrong: Unit testing has it's benefits.

   Right: Carol's code is clean. Her code's style is precise.
   Wrong: Carols code is clean.  Her codes style is precise.

       Right: He runs that backup every day.
       Wrong: He run's that backup every day.
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All Three: "Jake's Jeep runs at its worst, yet it's his best car."

A **noun** is a specific person, place, thing or idea:
Carol, France, house, radish, memory, Chipotle.

A **pronoun** is a generic, non-specific person or thing.
These are the common pronouns: it, he, she, her, them, they.

A **verb** is an action taken by the subject.
He *codes*. She *tests*. They *demonstrate*.