

Apostrophe: a lightning talk

(Don't do this at home)

A lightning talk by Tibs / Tony Ibbs

Sources at <https://github.com/tibs/lightning-talks>

Written using reStructuredText. Converted to PDF slides using pandoc and beamer.

So we had this test code

```
my_device = get_device(0)
somebody_elses_device = get_device(1)
assert somebody_elses_device != my_device
```

And it's clear what is wrong

It should be:

```
my_device = get_device(0)
somebody_else's_device = get_device(1)
assert somebody_else's_device != my_device
```

But...

```
===== 1 passed in 0.01 seconds =====
$ pytest temp.py
===== test session starts =====
...

===== ERRORS =====
----- ERROR collecting temp.py -----
...
E       File "/Users/tibs/Dropbox/talks/lightning-talks/temp
E       somebody_else's_device = get_device(1)
E                                     ^
E   SyntaxError: EOL while scanning string literal
!!!!!!! Interrupted: 1 errors during collection !!!!!!!!
===== 1 error in 0.18 seconds =====
```

The problem is

Basically, Python identifiers need to be letters, numbers and underscores.

But ' ' is not a letter.

But wait

What if there was a *letter* that was a single quote character?

And lo, there is

<https://codepoints.net/U+02BC>

U+02BC MODIFIER LETTER APOSTROPHE

According to wikipedia

The *modifier letter apostrophe* (') is a glyph.

In the International Phonetic Alphabet, it is used to express ejective consonants, such as /k' /, /t' /, etc/

It denotes a glottal stop (IPA /ʔ/) in orthographies of many languages, such as Nenets.

It is encoded at U+02BC ' modifier letter apostrophe (HTML `ʼ`).

So we *can* have

```
my_device = get_device(0)
somebody_else's_device = get_device(1)
assert somebody_else's_device != my_device
```

Which works...

```
$ pytest temp.py
```

```
===== test session starts =====
```

```
...
```

```
collected 1 item
```

```
temp.py .
```

```
===== 1 passed in 0.01 seconds =====
```

The last word

I shall leave the last word to a colleague's code review.

My colleague's review

No

Fin

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modifier_letter_apostrophe

<https://unicode-table.com/en/02BC/>

Ollie's review: No