

## Answer Key and References:

1. I attended that university in the **'80s**.  
Apostrophe is replacing the 19 in 1980s. (Morson's 126.)
2. We know their **children's** ages, but **that's** about it.  
Children's: Possessive. That's: contraction of "that is."
3. Maybe **it's** me, but I do think we have an issue.  
It's: contraction of "it is."
4. We hoped to be moved in two **months'** time.  
Months': Morson's 138 says, "Use an apostrophe and s to show singular possession of inanimate elements or things. Use s and an apostrophe for plural possession of inanimate elements or things."
5. Did she get her **driver's** license today?  
Driver's: Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines driver's license with the apostrophe.
6. I went back to get my **brothers'** books from their teachers.  
Brothers': the "their" in the sentence indicates that more than one brother is being discussed.
7. I received my **master's** in 2005.  
Master's: Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines master's as short for master's degree with the apostrophe.
8. He was sitting on the **passenger's** side.  
Passenger's: Possessive.
9. I did give two **weeks'** notice.  
Weeks': Morson's 138.
10. It was **Presidents'** Day, so the office was closed.  
Presidents': Plural possessive.
11. She **can't** see that well.  
Can't: Contraction of "can not" or "cannot." This will not be caught by a quick spell check, as cant is a word.
12. We **would've** loved to have gone, but we **weren't** invited.  
Would've: This happens all the time in transcripts. The steno is phonetic, and the correct would've sounds just like the incorrect would of. Weren't: Contraction of were not.
13. He was **mic'd** up for the game.  
Mic'd: Morson's 130. This is the preferred form when a proper name, abbreviation, or letter is made into a verb.
14. Her shoulder had to be **MRI'd**.  
MRI'd: Morson's 130.
15. **That's** a whole nother story, sir.  
That's: contraction of "that is." (No, it's not 'nother! "a whole nother" is colloquially correct. See <http://grammarist.com/usage/a-whole-nother/> for a further explanation.)

16. Her **t's** are crossed higher on the letter, indicating confidence.  
t's: Morson's 127, Gregg 622, and the Chicago Manual of Style agree that apostrophes should be used with lowercase letter plurals and not with uppercase letter plurals -- unless it prevents confusion. As is a word, so the plural is A's. Ns is not a word, so the plural of N is Ns.
17. The tenants neglected to give 60 **days'** notice of termination, so we kept the security deposit.  
Days': Morson's 138.
18. **Workers'** comp insurance is expensive, but **it's** also worth it.  
Workers': Merriam Webster defines workers' compensation with the apostrophe. It's: the contraction of "it is."
1. We moved to the **Dakotas**.  
Dakotas: Do not use an apostrophe to make a name plural.
2. On **its** face, this is a frivolous complaint.  
Its: the possessive form does not have an apostrophe.
3. We are not discussing **Johns** in general, we are only talking about you.  
Johns: See number 1.
4. We received a **Season's** Greetings card from him.  
Season's: Think of it as the greeting of the season. It's only one season.
5. New **Yorkers** are just that rude, I've found.  
New Yorkers: See number 1.
6. We were only allowed to smoke at her house, not at her **parents'** house.  
Parents': The house of her parents.
7. We knew that the fence was **theirs**.  
Theirs: Do not use an apostrophe with a possessive pronoun.
8. We did purchase **homeowners** insurance.  
Homeowners: This is descriptive, not possessive.
9. He **says** he didn't go, but he definitely wasn't home.  
Says: Do not use the apostrophe with a verb that ends in s.
10. Including all of the **LPNs** and **RNs**, we had thirty nurses on staff.  
LPNs and RNs: This is a fairly recent change, and the apostrophe is still used widely, but Morson's 126 states: The plurals of numbers and capitalized abbreviations can be written without an apostrophe and s if there is no chance of misreading. When abbreviations are lowercased, use the apostrophe and s.
11. Despite the efforts of his **counselors**, he ended up spending time in the county **boys'** home.  
Counselors: Don't use an apostrophe to make something plural. Boys' home: It is a home for boys, not for just one boy.
12. We did see her, but only at the **nurses** station.  
Nurses: This one is still debated, but the newer consensus is that nurses is

descriptive, not possessive.