



In our last Writing Tip Wednesday of 2023, we aimed to clear up confusion about common holiday writing mistakes, mostly having to do with apostrophes and plurals. But there's still one more hurdle to clear, and apostrophes also play a major part in this one. **New Year's**: Two small words with a variety of usages—and opportunities for blunders.

First, let's talk about capitalization. **New Year's Eve** and **New Year's Day** are official holidays, so they're always capitalized. But when you're talking about the **new year** in general, don't capitalize either word.

And then the apostrophe. This is a very clear case: Always use it when you're referring to the two holidays. It shows possession and means "the eve of the new year" or "the day of the new year." There's really never any need to use it without an apostrophe. That would mean you're talking about multiple new years, which probably doesn't come up much.

It's also common to drop the "Eve" or "Day" and just say "**New Year's**," and it's generally understood that you're talking about New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. But it still should be capitalized and have an apostrophe.

However, when you say, "**Happy New Year**," leave off the apostrophe and the S. But if you say you wished someone a happy **New Year**, you don't capitalize the H. And don't forget about "**New Year's resolutions**," which also needs that apostrophe—but no capital R.

That's a lot of rules around two words. Here's a quick rundown to help you keep it all straight.

Incorrect: We were out too late on New Years Eve.
We were out too late on New Years' Eve.

Correct: We were out too late on New Year's Eve.

Incorrect: My New Years Resolution is to get more sleep.

Correct: My New Year's resolution is to get more sleep.

Incorrect: Happy New Year's!

Happy New Years!

Correct: **Happy New Year!**

Incorrect: We wished everyone at the party a Happy New Year.

Correct: **We wished everyone at the party a happy New Year.**

Incorrect: I'll get all that work done in the New Year.

Correct: **I'll get all that work done in the new year.**

Sources:

- [Grammarly: Happy New Year, New Year's, or New Years? How to Wish Someone Well This January](#)
- [Thesaurus.com: Is it "New Years" or "New Year's"?](#)