

Apostrophes for Contraction

What is a Contraction?

When two words are joined together to make a shorter form of the word, it is known as contraction.

they are  *they're*

A Parent's Guide to Apostrophes

In English writing, the apostrophe is used when writing contractions and for demonstrating possession. The activities in this booklet focus on using the apostrophe for contraction - when two words have been shortened and one or more letters have been omitted. For example:

They've is the contraction of they have.

In this example, they have has been contracted to make one word. The apostrophe demonstrates where letters have been omitted.

Note: When practising using apostrophes in contractions, please ensure that your child places the apostrophe in the correct position, i.e. exactly between the letters where the omission has occurred. For example, in the contraction he'd (he would or he had) the apostrophe falls between the 'e' and the 'd'. If the apostrophe is placed above the e or the d, this would be incorrect usage of the apostrophe.

he'd	correct
h'ed	incorrect
hed'	incorrect

Common Contraction Words

Here is a list of common contracted words and their expanded forms. Please use this guide to help when practising how to spell contractions.

shouldn't	=	should not	isn't	=	is not
aren't	=	are not	wasn't	=	was not
wouldn't	=	would not	weren't	=	were not
couldn't	=	could not	hasn't	=	has not
doesn't	=	does not	hadn't	=	had not
haven't	=	have not	don't	=	do not
they're	=	they are	mustn't	=	must not
they'll	=	they will	who's	=	who is
they've	=	they have	what's	=	what is
that's	=	that is	where's	=	where is
can't	=	cannot	won't	=	will not
we're	=	we are	she's	=	she is or she has
we've	=	we have	he's	=	he is or he has
we'll	=	we will	you'll	=	you will
I'll	=	I will	you're	=	you are
I've	=	I have	who'll	=	who will
it's	=	it is or it has	didn't	=	did not

I am

If 'I' is one of the words in the contraction, the 'I' must be a capital letter.

When shortening 'am' with 'I', remove the 'a' and replace it with an apostrophe.

I am

=

I'm

Is

If 'is' is one of the words in the contraction, remove the 'i' and replace it with an apostrophe.

he is

she is

it is

that is

=

=

=

=

he's

she's

it's

that's

Are

If 'are' is one of the words in the contraction, remove the 'a' and replace it with an apostrophe.

we are

you are

they are

=

=

=

we're

you're

they're

Will

If 'will' is one of the words in the contraction, remove the 'w' and the 'i' and replace them both with an apostrophe.

I will

you will

he will

she will

=

=

=

=

I'll

you'll

he'll

she'll

it will

we will

they will

=

=

=

it'll

we'll

they'll

Match the contracted form to the expanded form.

Draw a line to match the ant to the food item. One has been done for you



he'd



can't



I'll



shouldn't



haven't



they've



she'd



I will



should not



he would



cannot



they have



she would



have not

Task 1

Write the contraction:

I will	_____	would have	_____
they have	_____	does not	_____
he is	_____	it is	_____
you are	_____	we are	_____
do not	_____		

Task 2

Write the expanded form:

don't	_____	he's	_____
what's	_____	where's	_____
we're	_____	you'll	_____
can't	_____	I'd	_____

Task 3

Write the contracted form of the verb

1. **We are** staying at home to stay safe and well.
2. Mrs Brady was amazed **she had** never been to such a fantastic place!
3. **I have** always wanted a pet dog.
4. **Where is** the party, Mr Flavell?
5. Mrs Swann is very friendly and **she is** funny too.
6. In the cave **there is** a mighty dragon.

Task 4

Add the apostrophe to the contracted words

1. Whats inside the box?
2. I wont be able to climb that mountain its too big.
3. Were going to be late if we dont hurry!
4. The dragon is huge and shes very dangerous.
5. when you've taken your medicine youll feel better.
6. Mr Harrison-Webster was nervous as he hadnt been in a helicopter before.