

## **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
ľЩ	=	I will	you're	=	you are
l'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

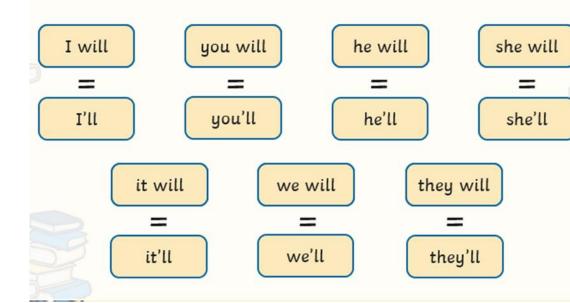
If 'are' is one of the words in the contraction, remove the 'a' and replace it with an apostrophe.

we are you are they are

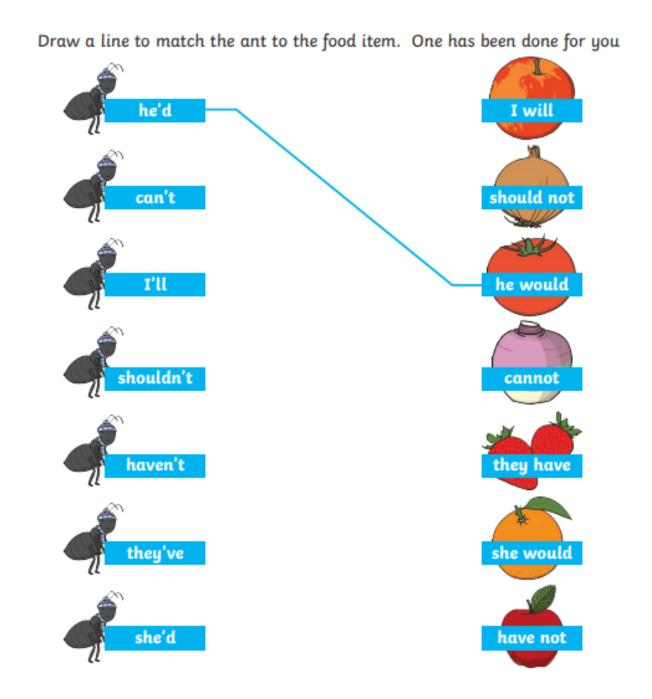
we're you're they're

#### Will

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



Match the contracted form to the expanded form.



#### 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	

#### 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.