Apostrophe Detectives

Does the apostrophe join words or show belonging?

2.LF.43 "Write complete sentences demonstrating knowledge of punctuation conventions. a. Utilize commas with words in a series in a sentence. b. Use apostrophes to form contractions and possessives. c. Use punctuation to set off interjections. d..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

JOINS WORDS

An apostrophe can help join two words into a shorter word. We're means we are.

We're painting clouds.

SHOWS BELONGING

An apostrophe can show that something belongs to someone.

Chef's apron looks spotless.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle JOIN or OWN for each sentence; for PROVE IT, pick two item numbers and explain how you knew.

1. I can't find my mittens. JOIN OWN
2. They'll visit tomorrow. JOIN OWN
3. Ava's bike has a bell. JOIN OWN
4. Dad's lunch fell over. JOIN OWN
5. She doesn't like rain. JOIN OWN
6. The dog's leash broke. JOIN OWN
7. You'll see a rainbow. JOIN OWN
8. It's getting late. JOIN OWN

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one complete sentence with a JOIN word and one complete sentence with an OWN word. Use an apostrophe in each sentence.

JOIN _____

OWN _____

CHALLENGE

Write one complete sentence with both a JOIN word and an OWN word. Underline both words.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.43

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I can't find my mittens.	**JOIN**	Can't joins can and not.
2	They'll visit tomorrow.	**JOIN**	They'll joins they and will.
3	Ava's bike has a bell.	**OWN**	The bike belongs to Ava.
4	Dad's lunch fell over.	**OWN**	The lunch belongs to Dad.
5	She doesn't like rain.	**JOIN**	Doesn't joins does and not.
6	The dog's leash broke.	**OWN**	The leash belongs to the dog.
7	You'll see a rainbow.	**JOIN**	You'll joins you and will.
8	It's getting late.	**JOIN**	It's joins it and is.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **JOIN**: We can't leave yet.
- **OWN**: Milo's hat is red.

Challenge: I can't find Ben's glove.

For PROVE IT, sample explanations are: Item 1 is JOIN because can't means can not. Item 3 is OWN because the bike belongs to Ava.