Contraction Detectives

Sort contractions, then show how you know.

3.LF.8.g "Decode and encode contractions with am, is, has, not, have, would, and will."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANS NOT

This contraction stands for two words. One of them is not.

don't = do not

NO NOT

This contraction stands for two words, but neither word is not. Say the full words to check.

it's = it is

1 SORT

8 items

Circle a category for each contraction, then pick two item numbers and explain which full words prove your choices.

1.	I'm	NOT	OTHER
2.	we've	NOT	OTHER
3.	isn't	NOT	OTHER
4.	they'll	NOT	OTHER
5.	haven't	NOT	OTHER
6.	wouldn't	NOT	OTHER
7.	She's eaten	NOT	OTHER
8.	I'd like a snack	NOT	OTHER

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 new contraction for NOT and one new contraction for OTHER, and show the full words for each.

NOT _____

OTHER _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with he's that means he has, then tell what he's means in your sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Contraction Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.8.g

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I'm	**OTHER**	I'm means I am; neither word is not.
2	we've	**OTHER**	We've means we have; neither word is not.
3	isn't	**NOT**	Isn't means is not.
4	they'll	**OTHER**	They'll means they will; neither word is not.
5	haven't	**NOT**	Haven't means have not.
6	wouldn't	**NOT**	Wouldn't means would not.
7	She's eaten	**OTHER**	In this phrase, she's means she has; neither word is not.
8	I'd like a snack	**OTHER**	In this phrase, I'd means I would; neither word is not.

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)

- **NOT**: weren't = were not
- **OTHER**: you'll = you will

Challenge: He's been to the zoo. Here, he's means he has.

For Part 2, accept any two item numbers with correct full words and an explanation that uses not to justify the category. For Part 3, accept new contractions that expand to the stated full words.