Apostrophe Detectives

Check contractions in everyday sentences.

7.LL.18 "Identify the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in a variety of texts. a. Correct improper usage of commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons through peer editing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT

A contraction joins two words and leaves out letters. In this category, the apostrophe marks where letters are missing.

Pilots aren't landing today.

NEEDS AN EDIT

The contraction is missing its apostrophe, or the apostrophe is in the wrong spot.

Puppies do'nt enjoy baths.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or EDIT for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. Maya couldn't find her library card. CORRECT EDIT
2. The hikers didnt pack enough water. CORRECT EDIT
3. Our team should'nt skip practice. CORRECT EDIT
4. You'll need a ticket for the concert. CORRECT EDIT
5. I haven't opened the blue envelope. CORRECT EDIT
6. The chef wasnt ready to serve dinner. CORRECT EDIT
7. They've painted the fence green. CORRECT EDIT
8. We don't miss the morning bus. CORRECT EDIT

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 sentence with a CORRECT contraction and one new sentence with a contraction that needs an EDIT.

CORRECT _____

EDIT _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence peer-edit note for one EDIT item: give the corrected sentence, then explain which letter the apostrophe replaces.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya couldn't find her library card.	**CORRECT**	The apostrophe in couldn't marks the missing o in could not.
2	The hikers didnt pack enough water.	**EDIT**	Didn't needs an apostrophe between n and t.
3	Our team should'nt skip practice.	**EDIT**	The apostrophe in shouldn't belongs between n and t.
4	You'll need a ticket for the concert.	**CORRECT**	You'll correctly contracts you will.
5	I haven't opened the blue envelope.	**CORRECT**	The apostrophe in haven't marks the missing o in have not.
6	The chef wasnt ready to serve dinner.	**EDIT**	Wasn't needs an apostrophe between n and t.
7	They've painted the fence green.	**CORRECT**	They've correctly contracts they have.
8	We don't miss the morning bus.	**CORRECT**	The apostrophe in don't marks the missing o in do 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)

- **CORRECT**: My cousin isn't coming to lunch.
- **EDIT**: I did'nt hear the thunder.

Challenge: The hikers didn't pack enough water. The apostrophe replaces the o in did not.

Items 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are CORRECT. Items 2, 3, and 6 need an EDIT; for Part 2, explanations should identify a correctly placed, missing, or misplaced apostrophe.