

Apostrophe Detectives

Sort contractions and possessives.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.2c "Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CONTRACTION

A contraction joins two words into one shorter word. The apostrophe takes the place of missing letters.

I'm happy.

POSSESSIVE

A possessive shows that someone or something has or owns something. The apostrophe helps show who owns it.

The cat's whiskers.

1 SORT 8 items

Read each item, then circle CONTRACT or POSSESS.

1. We're late.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

2. I can't jump.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

3. The bird's nest.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

4. She'll read.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

5. Dad's coat.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

6. The girls' bikes.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

7. They didn't sing.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

8. My brother's room.

CONTRACT

POSSESS

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 and one new possessive.

CONTRACT _____

POSSESS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a contraction and a possessive.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	We're late.	CONTRACT	We're means we are, so it is a contraction.
2	I can't jump.	CONTRACT	Can't means cannot, so it is a contraction.
3	The bird's nest.	POSSESS	The nest belongs to the bird, so it is possessive.
4	She'll read.	CONTRACT	She'll means she will, so it is a contraction.
5	Dad's coat.	POSSESS	The coat belongs to Dad, so it is possessive.
6	The girls' bikes.	POSSESS	The bikes belong to the girls, so it is possessive.
7	They didn't sing.	CONTRACT	Didn't means did not, so it is a contraction.
8	My brother's room.	POSSESS	The room belongs to my brother, so it is possessive.

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)

- **CONTRACT:** He's tall.
- **POSSESS:** The teacher's desk.

Challenge: We're washing the dog's bowl.

Accept correct contractions and possessives that are different from the worksheet examples. In the challenge sentence, check that the contraction replaces missing letters and the possessive shows ownership.