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.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · L.2.2c

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