

Apostrophe Detectives

Find short forms and one-owner words.

2.L.GC.1.18 "Mechanics: Use apostrophes to form contractions and singular possessive nouns. (Continue)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

SHORT FORM

A short form, called a contraction, replaces missing letters with an apostrophe.

It's raining.

ONE OWNER

A one-owner word shows that one person, animal, place, or thing owns something. Put an apostrophe and s after the owner word.

The turtle's shell.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each item, then pick two items and tell how the apostrophe shows a short form or one owner.

1. the rabbit's ears

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

2. we're

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

3. can't

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

4. Mom's coat

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

5. they'll

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

6. the dog's leash

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

7. the bird's nest

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

8. she's

SHORT FORM

ONE OWNER

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 SHORT FORM example and one new ONE OWNER example.

SHORT FORM _____

ONE OWNER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a short form and a one-owner word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	the rabbit's ears	ONE OWNER	The ears belong to one rabbit.
2	we're	SHORT FORM	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in we are.
3	can't	SHORT FORM	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in cannot.
4	Mom's coat	ONE OWNER	The coat belongs to one mom.
5	they'll	SHORT FORM	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in they will.
6	the dog's leash	ONE OWNER	The leash belongs to one dog.
7	the bird's nest	ONE OWNER	The nest belongs to one bird.
8	she's	SHORT FORM	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in she 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)

- **SHORT FORM:** They're playing.
- **ONE OWNER:** The nurse's bag.

Challenge: We're carrying the farmer's basket.

For Part 2, accept explanations that say an apostrophe replaces missing letters or shows that one owner has something. In the challenge, the sentence must include both types of apostrophe use.