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.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.L.GC.1.18

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.