

Apostrophe Detectives

Sort shortened words and ownership words.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

CONTRACTION

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

They've arrived.

SINGULAR POSSESSIVE NOUN

A singular possessive noun shows that one person, animal, place, or thing owns something. Add an apostrophe and s to most singular nouns.

Gardener's gloves

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each item, then in Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each one belongs.

1. we're ready

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

2. didn't rain

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

3. the rabbit's hutch

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

4. she'll swim

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

5. the artist's brush

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

6. a baby's laugh

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

7. I've finished

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

8. the coach's whistle

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

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 singular possessive noun.

SHORTENED _____

OWNERSHIP _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that includes both a contraction and a singular possessive noun.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	we're ready	SHORTENED	"We're" is a contraction for "we are."
2	didn't rain	SHORTENED	"Didn't" is a contraction for "did not."
3	the rabbit's hutch	OWNERSHIP	"Rabbit's" shows that one rabbit owns the hutch.
4	she'll swim	SHORTENED	"She'll" is a contraction for "she will."
5	the artist's brush	OWNERSHIP	"Artist's" shows that one artist owns the brush.
6	a baby's laugh	OWNERSHIP	"Baby's" shows that one baby has the laugh.
7	I've finished	SHORTENED	"I've" is a contraction for "I have."
8	the coach's whistle	OWNERSHIP	"Coach's" shows that one coach owns the whistle.

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)

- **SHORTENED:** can't
- **OWNERSHIP:** the fox's den

Challenge: The pilot's plane won't land.

For Part 2, accept an explanation that identifies a contraction as two words made shorter or identifies a singular possessive noun as showing ownership by one noun. In the challenge sample, "pilot's" shows ownership and "won't" means "will not."