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.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.1.18

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.

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