Apostrophe Sort

Sort phrases by what their apostrophes do.

4.W.7.b "Punctuation – Correctly using apostrophes to form possessives and contractions. Correctly using quotation marks and commas to mark direct speech. Using a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSSESSIVE

A possessive shows that someone or something has something. The apostrophe helps show that connection.

Lena's backpack

CONTRACTION

A contraction joins two words into one. The apostrophe takes the place of missing letters.

you'll laugh

1 SORT

8 items

Circle Possessive or Contraction for each numbered phrase, then choose one phrase of each kind and explain how you knew in PROVE IT.

1.	Mira's scarf	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
2.	the rabbit's ears	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
3.	we're ready	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
4.	Dad's helmet	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
5.	can't swim	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
6.	she's late	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
7.	the baker's bread	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
8.	Omar's notebook	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED

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

MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new possessive phrase and one new contraction phrase.

OWNERSHIP _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a possessive word and a contraction, then name each word.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.W.7.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mira's scarf	**OWNERSHIP**	The scarf belongs to Mira.
2	the rabbit's ears	**OWNERSHIP**	The ears belong to the rabbit.
3	we're ready	**SHORTENED**	We're joins we and are.
4	Dad's helmet	**OWNERSHIP**	The helmet belongs to Dad.
5	can't swim	**SHORTENED**	Can't joins can and not.
6	she's late	**SHORTENED**	She's joins she and is.
7	the baker's bread	**OWNERSHIP**	The bread belongs to the baker.
8	Omar's notebook	**OWNERSHIP**	The notebook belongs to Omar.

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)

- **OWNERSHIP**: the pilot's jacket
- **SHORTENED**: they're hungry

Challenge: The fox's den isn't empty. Possessive: fox's. Contraction: isn't.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that identify what belongs to someone or name the two words joined in a contraction.