Apostrophe Detectives

Sort words by what their apostrophes do.

L.2.2.c "Use apostrophe to form contractions and possessives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONTRACTION

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

you've means you have

POSSESSIVE

A possessive shows that something belongs to someone. The apostrophe and s help show who owns it.

Rosa's pencil

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1 SORT, circle JOINS or OWNS for each item; for Part 2 PROVE IT, pick two item numbers and write how you knew where each belongs.

1.	we're ready	JOINS OWNS
2.	can't swim	JOINS OWNS
3.	the frog's pond	JOINS OWNS
4.	Mia's hat	JOINS OWNS
5.	the dog's leash	JOINS OWNS
6.	she'll sing	JOINS OWNS
7.	the king's crown	JOINS OWNS
8.	I'm tired	JOINS OWNS

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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new contraction and one new phrase that shows who owns something.

JOINS _____

OWNS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a contraction and a possessive; underline each apostrophe.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · L.2.2.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	we're ready	**JOINS**	We're joins we and are.
2	can't swim	**JOINS**	Can't joins can and not.
3	the frog's pond	**OWNS**	The pond belongs to the frog.
4	Mia's hat	**OWNS**	The hat belongs to Mia.
5	the dog's leash	**OWNS**	The leash belongs to the dog.
6	she'll sing	**JOINS**	She'll joins she and will.
7	the king's crown	**OWNS**	The crown belongs to the king.
8	I'm tired	**JOINS**	I'm joins I and am.

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)

- **JOINS**: isn't
- **OWNS**: Nora's scarf

Challenge: Leo's puppy doesn't bark.

For Part 2, a sample response is: 1 joins we and are; 4 shows that the hat belongs to Mia. Accept other item pairs with correct explanations.