Apostrophe Detective

What job is the apostrophe doing?

2.LF.43.b "Use apostrophes to form contractions and possessives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

JOINED WORDS

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

we're means we are

SHOWS OWNERSHIP

An apostrophe can show that something belongs to someone.

Mia's kite

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle JOINED or OWNS for each item; for Part 2, pick one item from each group and explain how you knew.

1. I'm — JOINED / OWNS

2. the duck's nest — JOINED / OWNS

3. Jill's scarf — JOINED / OWNS

4. can't — JOINED / OWNS

5. the chef's hat — JOINED / OWNS

6. they're — JOINED / OWNS

7. a cat's whiskers — JOINED / OWNS

8. the bear's cave — JOINED / OWNS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick one item from each group and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new JOINED example and one new OWNS example.

JOINED _____

OWNS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a contraction and an apostrophe that shows ownership.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Detective

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.43.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I'm	**JOINED**	Joins I and am.
2	the duck's nest	**OWNS**	The nest belongs to the duck.
3	Jill's scarf	**OWNS**	The scarf belongs to Jill.
4	can't	**JOINED**	Joins can and not.
5	the chef's hat	**OWNS**	The hat belongs to the chef.
6	they're	**JOINED**	Joins they and are.
7	a cat's whiskers	**OWNS**	The whiskers belong to the cat.
8	the bear's cave	**OWNS**	The cave belongs to the bear.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one item from each group and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **JOINED**: don't
- **OWNS**: Sam's bike

Challenge: It's Ben's turn.

For Part 2, look for an explanation of both jobs. For example, item 4 means can not, while item 2 names a nest that belongs to the duck.