Word Join Detectives

Sort words, explain two choices, and make your own.

2.RF.3 "Decode multisyllabic words composed of base, prefixes, and suffixes; read contractions, possessives (e.g., kitten's, sisters'), and compound words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND WORD

A compound word joins two whole words to make one word.

rainbow = rain + bow

CONTRACTION

A contraction is a short way to say two words. An apostrophe takes the place of a missing letter or letters.

isn't = is not

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPOUND or SHORT for each word, then pick two words and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	backpack	COMPOUND SHORT
2.	pancake	COMPOUND SHORT
3.	I'm	COMPOUND SHORT
4.	sidewalk	COMPOUND SHORT
5.	don't	COMPOUND SHORT
6.	we're	COMPOUND SHORT
7.	snowman	COMPOUND SHORT
8.	toothbrush	COMPOUND SHORT

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 compound word and one new contraction that are not on this page.

COMPOUND _____

SHORT _____

CHALLENGE

Pick one contraction from the sort. Write the two words it means and name the missing letter or letters.

ANSWER KEY

Word Join Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.RF.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	backpack	**COMPOUND**	Backpack joins back and pack.
2	pancake	**COMPOUND**	Pancake joins pan and cake.
3	I'm	**SHORT**	I'm means I am; the apostrophe replaces the a.
4	sidewalk	**COMPOUND**	Sidewalk joins side and walk.
5	don't	**SHORT**	Don't means do not; the apostrophe replaces the o.
6	we're	**SHORT**	We're means we are; the apostrophe replaces the a.
7	snowman	**COMPOUND**	Snowman joins snow and man.
8	toothbrush	**COMPOUND**	Toothbrush joins tooth and brush.

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)

- **COMPOUND**: cupcake
- **SHORT**: I'll

Challenge: don't = do not; the letter o is missing.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name both words in a compound or tell what a contraction means. For Part 3, accept any correct examples not printed on the worksheet.