Apostrophe Detectives

Sort, explain, and make words with apostrophes.

2.W.8.b.II "Using an apostrophe to form contractions and singular possessive nouns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

WORDS JOINED

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

You're early. You're means you are.

ONE OWNER

An apostrophe and s can show that something belongs to one person or animal.

A fox's den is a den that belongs to a fox.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the right group for each item in Part 1, then pick one item from each group and explain how you knew in Part 2.

1.	can't swim	JOINED OWNER
2.	Mia's backpack	JOINED OWNER
3.	the dog's leash	JOINED OWNER
4.	they're ready	JOINED OWNER
5.	it's raining	JOINED OWNER
6.	Ben's kite	JOINED OWNER
7.	don't shout	JOINED OWNER
8.	we'll play	JOINED OWNER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick one item from each group and explain how you knew in Part 2.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new contraction and one new phrase that shows one owner.

JOINED _____

OWNER _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a contraction and a phrase that shows one owner, then underline both.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 2 · 2.W.8.b.II

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	can't swim	**JOINED**	Can't is a contraction of cannot.
2	Mia's backpack	**OWNER**	The backpack belongs to Mia.
3	the dog's leash	**OWNER**	The leash belongs to one dog.
4	they're ready	**JOINED**	They're is a contraction of they are.
5	it's raining	**JOINED**	It's is a contraction of it is.
6	Ben's kite	**OWNER**	The kite belongs to Ben.
7	don't shout	**JOINED**	Don't is a contraction of do not.
8	we'll play	**JOINED**	We'll is a contraction of we will.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one item from each group and explain how you knew in Part 2.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **JOINED**: I'll
- **OWNER**: the girl's scarf

Challenge: The bird's nest isn't empty.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the two joined words or tell who owns the object. For example, can't means cannot, and Mia's backpack belongs to Mia.