Apostrophe Detectives

Does it shorten words or show ownership?

2.W.8.b "Punctuation – Correctly using a period, question mark, or exclamation mark at the end of a sentence. Using an apostrophe to form contractions and singular possessive nouns. Using commas in greetings and closings of letters, dates..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SHORTENED WORDS

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

we're

SHOWS OWNERSHIP

A singular possessive shows that something belongs to one person or thing. The apostrophe and s show who owns it.

Lila's scarf

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SHORT or BELONGS for each item, then choose one item from each group and explain how you knew.

1. can't — SHORT BELONGS
2. don't — SHORT BELONGS
3. Ben's bike — SHORT BELONGS
4. fox's den — SHORT BELONGS
5. I'll — SHORT BELONGS
6. bird's nest — SHORT BELONGS
7. we've — SHORT BELONGS
8. isn't — SHORT BELONGS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose 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 contraction and one new phrase that shows something belongs to one person or thing.

SHORT _____

BELONGS _____

CHALLENGE

Write a question that uses both a contraction and a singular possessive noun, and end it with the correct mark.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.W.8.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	can't	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letters in cannot.
2	don't	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letter in do not.
3	Ben's bike	**BELONGS**	The apostrophe and s show that the bike belongs to Ben.
4	fox's den	**BELONGS**	The apostrophe and s show that the den belongs to one fox.
5	I'll	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letters in I will.
6	bird's nest	**BELONGS**	The apostrophe and s show that the nest belongs to one bird.
7	we've	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letters in we have.
8	isn't	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letter in is not.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose 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)

- **SHORT**: they're
- **BELONGS**: Nora's pencil

Challenge: Didn't Omar's puppy bark?

For Part 2, look for an explanation of missing letters in one item and ownership in the other. Accept other correctly formed examples in Part 3.