Apostrophe Jobs

Sort apostrophes by what they do.

10.5.W.6 "Students will write using correct apostrophe mechanics."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONTRACTION

In a contraction, an apostrophe takes the place of missing letters when two words are shortened into one.

You're ready.

POSSESSIVE

A possessive apostrophe shows that something belongs to someone or something. Its position depends on whether the owner is singular or plural.

Nora's telescope gleamed.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each item, then choose one item from each category and explain what its apostrophe does.

1.	They've already left.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
2.	The painter's brush broke.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
3.	The children's coats are wet.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
4.	She'll call tonight.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
5.	I haven't eaten.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
6.	It's getting late.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
7.	The fox's den is hidden.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP
8.	We're almost done.	SHORTENED	OWNERSHIP

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain what its apostrophe does.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a contraction and another with a possessive apostrophe; underline the word with the apostrophe in each.

SHORTENED _____

OWNERSHIP _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both kinds of apostrophe, then identify which word does each job.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Jobs

GRADE 10 · 10.5.W.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	They've already left.	**SHORTENED**	They've shortens they have.
2	The painter's brush broke.	**OWNERSHIP**	The brush belongs to the painter.
3	The children's coats are wet.	**OWNERSHIP**	The coats belong to the children.
4	She'll call tonight.	**SHORTENED**	She'll shortens she will.
5	I haven't eaten.	**SHORTENED**	Haven't shortens have not.
6	It's getting late.	**SHORTENED**	It's shortens it is.
7	The fox's den is hidden.	**OWNERSHIP**	The den belongs to the fox.
8	We're almost done.	**SHORTENED**	We're shortens we are.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain what its apostrophe does.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SHORTENED**: We'll visit later.
- **OWNERSHIP**: Rina's jacket is green.

Challenge: Tessa's notebook isn't here. Tessa's shows ownership; isn't is a contraction.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 shortens they have and item 3 shows that the coats belong to the children.