Apostrophe Detectives

Does the apostrophe show possession or shorten two words?

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSSESSION

An apostrophe can show that something belongs to one person, animal, or thing. Add 's to the word naming the owner.

Rosa's parrot squawks.

CONTRACTION

An apostrophe can replace missing letters when two words join. Expand the word into two words to check it.

You're early today.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each bold word, then pick one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1. The **chef's** recipe won a prize. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
2. The **fox's** den was empty. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
3. **We'll** meet after lunch. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
4. **Didn't** you hear the bell? OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
5. **She's** reading beside the window. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
6. **Tariq's** scooter needs a tire. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
7. **I'll** bring my sketchbook tomorrow. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED
8. The **museum's** doors close at five. OWNERSHIP SHORTENED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

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

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence with a possessive apostrophe and one new sentence with a contraction.

OWNERSHIP _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a possessive apostrophe and a contraction, then underline both words.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.5.W.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The **chef's** recipe won a prize.	**OWNERSHIP**	The recipe belongs to the chef.
2	The **fox's** den was empty.	**OWNERSHIP**	The den belongs to the fox.
3	**We'll** meet after lunch.	**SHORTENED**	We'll means we will.
4	**Didn't** you hear the bell?	**SHORTENED**	Didn't means did not.
5	**She's** reading beside the window.	**SHORTENED**	She's means she is.
6	**Tariq's** scooter needs a tire.	**OWNERSHIP**	The scooter belongs to Tariq.
7	**I'll** bring my sketchbook tomorrow.	**SHORTENED**	I'll means I will.
8	The **museum's** doors close at five.	**OWNERSHIP**	The doors belong to the museum.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one item from each category 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)

- **OWNERSHIP**: The baker's apron is red.
- **SHORTENED**: We've finished the puzzle.

Challenge: Omar's kite ripped, so it's in the bin.

Sort order: ownership, ownership, shortened, shortened, shortened, ownership, shortened, ownership.
For Part 2, accept explanations that identify an owner or correctly expand a contraction.