Apostrophe Detective

Sort apostrophes by the job they do.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

POSSESSIVE

A possessive noun uses an apostrophe to show who or what something belongs to. If a plural noun already ends in s, put the apostrophe after the s.

the pilot's map

CONTRACTION

A contraction joins words. Its apostrophe takes the place of letters that were left out.

I won't leave.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle OWNERSHIP or SHORTENED, then choose one item from each category and explain in Part 2 how its apostrophe works.

1.	the actor's script	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
2.	the athletes' medals	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
3.	we're late	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
4.	the fox's den	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
5.	she'll call	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
6.	didn't notice	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
7.	the students' projects	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED
8.	you've changed	OWNERSHIP	SHORTENED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain in Part 2 how its apostrophe works.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new phrase or sentence with a possessive noun and one with a contraction.

OWNERSHIP _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a contraction and a plural possessive noun. Then name which is which.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detective

GRADE 9 · 9.5.W.6

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	the actor's script	**OWNERSHIP**	The script belongs to the actor.
2	the athletes' medals	**OWNERSHIP**	The medals belong to the athletes; the plural noun ends in s.
3	we're late	**SHORTENED**	We're shortens we are.
4	the fox's den	**OWNERSHIP**	The den belongs to the fox.
5	she'll call	**SHORTENED**	She'll shortens she will.
6	didn't notice	**SHORTENED**	Didn't shortens did not.
7	the students' projects	**OWNERSHIP**	The projects belong to the students; the plural noun ends in s.
8	you've changed	**SHORTENED**	You've shortens you have.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain in Part 2 how its apostrophe works.
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 gardener's gloves
- **SHORTENED**: You're early.

Challenge: They're checking the teachers' schedules. They're is the contraction; teachers' is the plural possessive noun.

Part 2 sample: Item 2 shows medals belonging to the athletes. Item 3 shortens we are to we're.