Apostrophe Detective

Does the apostrophe shorten words or show one owner?

2.L.2.d "Use an apostrophe to form contractions and singular possessives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SHORT FORM

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

I'll = I will

ONE OWNER

A singular possessive shows that something belongs to one person or animal. Put an apostrophe and s after the word for the owner.

the rabbit's carrot

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle SHORT or OWNER, then choose one item from each group and explain how you knew.

1.	can't	SHORT OWNER
2.	the dog's bowl	SHORT OWNER
3.	the boy's coat	SHORT OWNER
4.	she'll	SHORT OWNER
5.	we've	SHORT OWNER
6.	the bird's nest	SHORT OWNER
7.	don't	SHORT OWNER
8.	the girl's hat	SHORT OWNER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new contraction and tell which two words it joins. Then write one new phrase that shows something belonging to one owner.

SHORT _____

OWNER _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences using Sam's. In one sentence, make it mean Sam is. In the other, use it to show that something belongs to Sam.

ANSWER KEY # Apostrophe Detective

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	can't	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letters in cannot.
2	the dog's bowl	**OWNER**	The bowl belongs to one dog.
3	the boy's coat	**OWNER**	The coat belongs to one boy.
4	she'll	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in she will.
5	we've	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces missing letters in we have.
6	the bird's nest	**OWNER**	The nest belongs to one bird.
7	don't	**SHORT**	The apostrophe replaces the missing letter in do not.
8	the girl's hat	**OWNER**	The hat belongs to one girl.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SHORT**: he's = he is
- **OWNER**: the cat's toy

Challenge: Sam's reading. Sam's book is blue.

For the explanations, accept a correct two-word meaning for a SHORT item and a clear statement of who owns what for an OWNER item. In the challenge sample, the first Sam's means Sam is, and the second shows that the book belongs to Sam.