

Punctuation Clue Sort

Use marks to decode short forms.

3.2.A.iii “decoding compound words, contractions, and abbreviations;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

ABBREVIATION

An abbreviation is a short way to write a longer word.
Many abbreviations use a period.

Mr.

CONTRACTION

A contraction joins two words and leaves out letters. It
uses an apostrophe where letters are left out.

don't

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle PERIOD or APOSTROPHE, then choose two items and explain which clue helped you sort each one.

1. Mon.

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

2. Sept.

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

3. can't

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

4. Ave.

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

5. we're

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

6. she'll

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

7. Sat.

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

8. p.m.

PERIOD

APOSTROPHE

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 abbreviation for PERIOD and one new contraction for APOSTROPHE.

PERIOD _____

APOSTROPHE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that has an abbreviation and a contraction, then name each one below your sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mon.	PERIOD	Mon. is an abbreviation for Monday and uses a period.
2	Sept.	PERIOD	Sept. is an abbreviation for September and uses a period.
3	can't	APOSTROPHE	can't is a contraction for cannot and has an apostrophe for missing letters.
4	Ave.	PERIOD	Ave. is an abbreviation for Avenue and uses a period.
5	we're	APOSTROPHE	we're is a contraction for we are and has an apostrophe for the missing a.
6	she'll	APOSTROPHE	she'll is a contraction for she will and has an apostrophe for missing letters.
7	Sat.	PERIOD	Sat. is an abbreviation for Saturday and uses a period.
8	p.m.	PERIOD	p.m. is an abbreviation for post meridiem and uses periods.

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)

- **PERIOD:** Fri.
- **APOSTROPHE:** they're

Challenge: Sentence: Mrs. Ortiz hasn't packed the bags. Abbreviation: Mrs. Contraction: hasn't.

PERIOD answers are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. APOSTROPHE answers are 3, 5, and 6; students should explain that periods signal the abbreviations and apostrophes signal missing letters in contractions.