

Word Join Detectives

Spot words that join and words that shorten.

3.2.B.iii "spelling compound words, contractions, and abbreviations;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPOUND WORD

A compound word joins two complete words to make one new word. It does not use an apostrophe.

starfish

CONTRACTION

A contraction shortens and joins a word or words. An apostrophe shows where letters were left out.

I'll

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each item, then pick two items and explain which category each one belongs to and what clues helped you decide.

1. raincoat

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

2. bedroom

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

3. they're

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

4. sunlight

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

5. won't

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

6. we've

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

7. football

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

8. she'd

COMPOUND

SHORTENED

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 compound word and one new contraction.

COMPOUND _____

SHORTENED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses a compound word and a contraction.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	raincoat	COMPOUND	rain + coat are two complete words joined together.
2	bedroom	COMPOUND	bed + room are two complete words joined together.
3	they're	SHORTENED	Apostrophe shows letters left out of they are.
4	sunlight	COMPOUND	sun + light are two complete words joined together.
5	won't	SHORTENED	Apostrophe shows letters left out of will not.
6	we've	SHORTENED	Apostrophe shows letters left out of we have.
7	football	COMPOUND	foot + ball are two complete words joined together.
8	she'd	SHORTENED	Apostrophe shows letters left out of she had or she would.

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)

- **COMPOUND:** notebook
- **SHORTENED:** you'll

Challenge: We're reading a story about a rainbow.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the two complete words in a compound word or point to the apostrophe and omitted letters in a contraction. A contraction may shorten and join a word or words, such as cannot becoming can't.