

Apostrophe Detectives

Sort apostrophes by what they show.

2.LU.1.H "Use contractions and singular possessives."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CONTRACTION

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

I have becomes I've.

SINGULAR POSSESSIVE

A singular possessive shows that one person, animal, or thing owns something. Add an apostrophe and s.

Mia's kite

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle SHORTENED or OWNERSHIP for each item, then choose two items and explain how the apostrophe helped you decide.

1. we're

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

2. they'll

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

3. the rabbit's cage

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

4. can't

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

5. the bird's nest

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

6. the baby's spoon

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

7. she's

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

8. the clown's hat

SHORTENED

OWNERSHIP

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 SHORTENED example and one new OWNERSHIP example.

SHORTENED _____

OWNERSHIP _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a contraction and a singular possessive.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	we're	SHORTENED	A contraction for we are.
2	they'll	SHORTENED	A contraction for they will.
3	the rabbit's cage	OWNERSHIP	The cage belongs to one rabbit.
4	can't	SHORTENED	A contraction for cannot.
5	the bird's nest	OWNERSHIP	The nest belongs to one bird.
6	the baby's spoon	OWNERSHIP	The spoon belongs to one baby.
7	she's	SHORTENED	A contraction for she is or she has.
8	the clown's hat	OWNERSHIP	The hat belongs to one clown.

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)

- **SHORTENED:** I'll
- **OWNERSHIP:** Lena's book

Challenge: Maya's puppy isn't sleepy.

For Prove It, students should explain that a contraction has missing letters or that a singular possessive shows ownership. Accept correct new examples that are different from the worksheet items.