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.

ANSWER KEY

Apostrophe Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.LU.1.H

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.

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