

Contractions

Explanation

Apostrophes can show possession (*the girl's hamster is strange*), and also can show the omission of one or more letters when words are combined into contractions. You would use a contraction to shorten and combine words. This is a list of the most common contractions.

...connections...

For more help with contractions, please see [Possessives](#).

| <u>Long Form</u> | <u>Contraction</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|
| I am | I'm |
| I had | I'd |
| I have | I've |
| it is | it's |
| we will | we'll |
| they will | they'll |
| we are | we're |
| they are | they're |
| do not | don't |
| does not | doesn't |
| did not | didn't |
| let us | let's |
| is not | isn't |
| are not | aren't |
| should not | shouldn't |
| will not | won't |
| cannot | can't |
| would not | wouldn't |
| could not | couldn't |
| you would | you'd |
| who is | who's |

In formal writing, contractions are not used as frequently (if at all). Some instructors allow contractions in assignments, and some do not. You should check with them about their policy if it is not clear from the syllabus. If you do use contractions, however, be sure to include the apostrophe in place of the letters you omit.

Exercise 1 – Contractions

In each of the sentences below, correct any contraction errors you find.

Example: When John returns, he wont want to eat dinner.

Correct: When John returns, he won't want to eat dinner.

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1. The team is busy typing at the desk, but theyre not going to stay long.
 2. It isnt that their parents are mean, but they dont spend any time with them.
 3. Youd have to be crazy to eat that fast food.
 4. Paragraphs arent my favorite thing to study, but they beat spelling.
 5. In two more days well be sailing around the world.
 6. The second student from the left wouldnt turn in his test on time.
 7. Lets see what Im doing next week so I dont double-book.
 8. Whos coming to the party tomorrow?
 9. This really isnt what I envisioned when I agreed to get paid.

Exercise 2 – Contractions

Combine words in the long form into contractions in the sentences below.

Example: I will not stack all five piles together.

Correct: I won't stack all five piles together.

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1. The co-op does not have any cereal unless you are buying it in bulk.
 2. In fact, it is cheaper, healthier, and should not be any less fresh.
 3. I have had a good experience at that store.
 4. The food I brought home would not ever go to waste.
 5. They will bag it for you and will not drop anything.