

What, Why, and How?

14

GRAMMAR

Contractions

Contractions

What are they?

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, 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.

PRACTICE

Exercise 1 – Contractions

In each of the sentences below, combine the words in long form into contractions.

Example: When John returns, he (will not) _____ want to eat dinner.

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

1. The team is busy typing at the desk, but (they are) _____ not going to stay long.
2. It (is not) _____ that their parents are mean, but they (do not) _____ spend any time with them.
3. (You would) _____ have to be crazy to eat that fast food.
4. Paragraphs (are not) _____ my favorite thing to study, but they beat spelling.
5. In two more days (we will) _____ be sailing around the world.
6. The second student from the left (would not) _____ turn in his test on time.
7. (Let us) _____ see what (I am) _____ doing next week so I (do not) _____ double-book.
8. (Who is) _____ coming to the party tomorrow?
9. This really (is not) _____ what I envisioned when I agreed to get paid.
10. The co-op (does not) _____ have any cereal unless (you are) _____ buying it in bulk.
11. In fact, (it is) _____ cheaper, healthier, and (should not) _____ be any less fresh.
12. (I have) _____ had a good experience at that store.
13. The food I brought home (would not) _____ ever go to waste.
14. (They will) _____ bag it for you and (will not) _____ drop anything.
15. (I am) _____ a fan of going to a co-op like this instead of the large chain stores.

ANSWERS

Contractions Answer Key

Exercise 1 – Contractions

1. The team is busy typing at the desk, but they're not going to stay long.
2. It isn't that their parents are mean, but they don't spend any time with them.
3. You'd have to be crazy to eat that fast food.
4. Paragraphs aren't my favorite thing to study, but they beat spelling.
5. In two more days we'll be sailing around the world.
6. The second student from the left wouldn't turn in his test on time.
7. Let's see what I'm doing next week so I don't double-book.
8. Who's coming to the party tomorrow?
9. This really isn't what I envisioned when I agreed to get paid.
10. The co-op doesn't have any cereal unless you're buying it in bulk.
11. In fact, it's cheaper, healthier, and shouldn't be any less fresh.
12. I've had a good experience at that store.
13. The food I brought home wouldn't ever go to waste.
14. They'll bag it for you and won't drop anything.
15. I'm a fan of going to a co-op like this instead of the large chain stores.