

Apostrophes for
contractions

Apostrophes

- What is an apostrophe?

An apostrophe is a punctuation mark. It can be used to shorten words.

The apostrophe shows where letters have been missed out of a word. This type of word is a contraction.

Using contractions

People speak and write using different styles of English.

People often use contractions when they chat.

For example:

- "I'm going to the shop." instead of "I am going to the shop."
- "They're having fun!" Instead of "They are having fun!"

Forming contractions

In these examples two words are joined together. The apostrophe takes the place of a letter.

Did not	Didn't
I am	I'm
Has not	Hasn't
They are	They're
Could not	Couldn't

Forming contractions

In these examples two words are joined together. The apostrophe takes the place of more than one letter.

I will	I'll
She would	She'd
Will not	Won't

Activity

Look at these sentences below. Can you work out how they would be written without the contractions.

- I've gone to the park. I'll be back soon.
- Having a lovely holiday. Wish you and Lucy had come with us. She'd have loved the water park.
- I Can't get to the swimming club tonight.