

Apostrophes

,

Sometimes you can join two words together into one word, such as **don't** (do not). These joined words don't include all the letters of both words. You use an **apostrophe** to replace the missing letters.

Guinea pigs

don't ← do not
eat meat.



We've ← we have

got a new car.



← she is
She's a very
good dancer.

It isn't raining now.



There are some contractions that we would not usually write as separate words. In the past, they were written separately, but today we use contractions.

Let's ← let us
play cards.



The clock struck
twelve o'clock.


← twelve of
the clock



Apostrophes

Some people are always looking for ways to make things **easier** for themselves. **Joining** two words together with an **apostrophe** is one way...

Apostrophes join two words together

This is an **apostrophe**: 

Contractions are only for **informal writing**.

- 1) When you **join two words** together, put an **apostrophe** in to show where you've **missed out letters**. Here are some **key words** that you **need to know** before you get started:



CONTRACTION: the **new word** made by **joining** two words together.



OMISSION: when you **replace missing letters** in a contraction with an **apostrophe**.



I am — I'm
we are — we're
do not — don't
who is — who's
does not — doesn't



I do not know what we are going to do.

I don't know what we're going to do.

Contractions use **apostrophes of omission**.

- 2) Some **more contractions**:

I will
I'll

I would / I had
I'd

I have
I've

let us
let's

Contractions can also be called the **'contracted form'**.

- 3) Some contractions are a **bit different**:

'I won't' doesn't quite match the missing letters from 'I will not'.

I will not
I won't

cannot
can't

'Can't' is a **shorter** version of just **one word**.

Think about whether you need an apostrophe

Don't use an apostrophe for talking about **more than one** of something:

She has two pet pig's. ❌

She has two pet pigs. ✅

