

Grammar and Punctuation

Contractions

Lesson aims

- To understand why we use contractions
- To learn how to use them



Don't confuse yourself

Learning how to use contractions is something which troubles many people, even adults.

You have to practise, practise and practise.

Contractions (connecting words)

- Contractions is a fancy name for words that are joined together, they make them shorter.

Huh?

Example:

did not = didn't

would not = wouldn't



Here are some more examples

He's = he is

She's = she is

Haven't = have not

Shouldn't = should not

Wouldn't = would not

They're = they are

They've = they have

Where's the muffin man? He's starting to annoy me, I haven't seen him or his girlfriend in weeks. They've gone to Disney Land, it's the best!



Contractions (connecting words)

- The apostrophe (') is used to shorten the word.
- In **wouldn't** (**would not**) the apostrophe replaces the 'o' in not.
- In **they're** (**they are**) the apostrophe replaces the 'a' in are.

That makes sense, but do I have to use contractions?



The answer to that my green friend is no. Contractions don't have to be used, it's just quicker to use them.

Ask your teacher/parent/ friend or look it up in a book. However if you're unsure you don't have to use the contraction. For example write **did not** instead of **didn't**. The only time you shouldn't use contractions is in formal letters

I really want to use contractions when I write, but sometimes I'm not always sure when to use the apostrophe.



Thanks for the advice. I think we could all do with a quick test.

Here comes the challenge!



Selecting correctly

Contractions.

- Select the correct use
(click on the picture to answer)
- A – “I did’nt know the answer”
- B – “I didn’t know the answer
- C – “I didnt’ know the answer






CORRECT! ...contractions.

- Select the correct use.
- A – “I’ve hated Liverpool since I can remember!”
- B – “Ive hated Liverpool since I can remember!”
- C – “Ive’ hated Liverpool since I can remember!”



CORRECT!

...more contractions.

- Select the correct use of the apostrophe.
- A – “Theyr’e smelly feet!” 
- B – “They’re smelly feet!” 
- C – “Theyre smelly feet!” 

CORRECT!

- Select the correct use.
- A – “You’ve got a lot of money”
- B – “Youve got a lot of money”
- C – “You have got a lot of money.”



Correct!

- Select the correct use of the apostrophe.
- A – “Theyre really tasty.”
- B – “Theyr’e really tasty.”
- C – “They’re really tasty.”

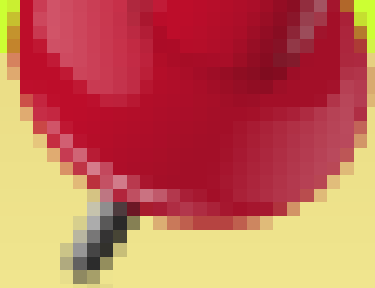


YOUR OGRE NEEDS YOU!

- Shrek has a problem which he needs you to help him with.
- He has written a short letter to Donkey and Puss in Boots and wants you to check it for any mistakes.
- Look out for the incorrect use of contractions in the letter...maybe there are more mistakes.



Really appreciate your help!



Dear donkey and Puss in boots,

Your'e in big trouble you two! What have you done with all the money we made form Shrek 3? You thieving toe rags! How do you expect me fead my ogre kids? Theyr'e eating everything! Its to much work for Fiona and I.

I want my money! donkey, if I find youv'e gambled it all in Las Vegas, or even worse, bought a season ticket too sea liverpool or Chelsea their will be trouble!

Puss, I thought more off you. I didnt think you would steel. Ive seen you spending our money on MTV partying and acting the fool, but honestly, what are you thinking going on *I'm a celebrity, get me outta here?* Theyr'e all crazy on that show!

I want all the money returned! bring it two the swamp or I will be eating donkey and Cat pie four sunday lunch!

Shrek

You're –

short for 'you are'. The apostrophe stands for the 'a' in are.

They're –

short for 'they are'. The apostrophe stands for the 'a' in are

Dear Donkey and Puss in boots,

Your'e in big trouble you two! What have you done with all the money we made from Shrek 3? You thieving toe rags! How do you expect me feed my ogre kids? **Theyr'e** eating everything! It is too much work for Fiona and I.

You've –

short for 'you have'. The apostrophe replaces the 'ha' in have.

I want my money. Donkey, if I find **youv'e** gambled it all in Las Vegas, or even worse, bought a season ticket to see Liverpool or Chelsea there will be trouble!

Puss, I thought more of you. I **didnt** think you would steal. **Ive** seen you spending our money on MTV, partying and acting the fool, but honestly, what are you thinking going on 'I'm a celebrity, get me outta here? **Theyre** all crazy on that show!

Didn't –

short for 'did not'. The apostrophe stands for the 'o' in not

I want all the money returned! Bring it to the swamp or I will be eating Donkey and Cat pie for Sunday lunch!

They're –

Shrek is wanting to say they are.

I've –

short for 'I have'. The apostrophe stands for the 'ha' in have.

Shrek

Extension

- Write a letter replying to Shrek's demands from either Donkey or Puss in Boots
- Your mission is to include as many contractions that is humanly possible!