

## The Apostrophe 1 (contractions) ☆ ☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

### Grammar Bite

(read through this)

Apostrophes have two uses only: **contraction** and **connection**.

Today we look at contractions.

#### Contractions

The most common words to contract are: *be*, *have* and *do*, and the MODAL VERBS:

Only these can contract in the affirmative

I am	you are	we have	he will
↓	↓	↓	↓
I'm	you're	we've	he'll

she has	she is	she had	she would
↙ ↘		↙ ↘	
she's		she'd	

These don't contract in the affirmative  
*was/were*, *do/does/did*, *can/could*, *should*, *must*

**Not** contracts (*n't*) with all of them:

<b>be</b>	<b>have</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>MODAL VERBS</b>
	<i>I haven't</i>	<i>I don't</i>	<i>I shan't</i>
<i>you aren't</i>	<i>you haven't</i>	<i>you don't</i>	<i>I won't</i>
<i>she isn't</i>	<i>she hasn't</i>	<i>she doesn't</i>	<i>I can't</i>
	<i>I hadn't</i>		<i>I couldn't</i>
			<i>I shouldn't</i>
			<i>I wouldn't</i>
			<i>I mustn't</i>

**Except** *I am*, which only contracts to *I'm* (*not*)  
And two others: **let's** (*let us*), **o'clock** (*of the clock*)

And when do we use them?

**Very often, but especially in speaking and INFORMAL writing.**



Formal



Informal

### Worksheet

(do this)

**Write out the contraction, or write "No" if no contraction is possible:**

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| She does not like it.            | <u>doesn't</u> |
| We could ask him.                | <u>NO</u>      |
| 1 They have not finished.        | _____          |
| 2 We have done it.               | _____          |
| 3 I would come if you asked me.  | _____          |
| 4 Let us go then, you and I...   | _____          |
| 5 He will come tomorrow.         | _____          |
| 6 He will not come tonight.      | _____          |
| 7 We can play on Saturday.       | _____          |
| 8 That should work now.          | _____          |
| 9 I had finished when she came.  | _____          |
| 10 I am not interested.          | _____          |
| 11 I cannot understand Polish.   | _____          |
| 12 I would not go if I were you, | _____          |
| 13 We are ready to roll!         | _____          |
| 14 You must try this fish.       | _____          |
| 15 Sue does not like him.        | _____          |

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