



Contractions

What you will need:

- Different types of natural items (or coloured paper if not available)
- Marker pens & chalk
- Timer

Contractions are two words which have been put together to create a shorter version of the word. When this happens, letters are removed and an apostrophe is put in their place. Below are some examples of contractions that you can use for these activities. We have outlined 3 different activities on the next page.

- have & not = haven't
- should & not = shouldn't
- you & are = you're
- she & had = she'd
- could & have = could've
- it & is = it's
- I & will = I'll
- she & will = she'll

Exception

- will & not = won't

There are lots of other contractions you can use, and the rule about which letters are missing is the same, each time you use the same second word.

- **not** becomes **n't**
- **will** becomes **'ll**
- **have** becomes **'ve**
- **are** becomes **'re**
- **had** becomes **'d**
- **is/has** becomes **'s**





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For each activity, make sure to begin with a recap on what contractions are, talking through some examples with your child. Ensure they understand which letters are replaced by an apostrophe when the two root words create a new shorter version.



Word Hunt

Write down individual root words on one type of natural item (as shown above). Then write down the matching contraction on another type of natural item. Hide all these in your outdoor space and ask your child to go on a hunt for them. They need to find as many words as they can, bring them back to the middle and match them up as shown in the photo above.





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Matching Game

Write a selection of contractions down on natural items. Hide these in your outdoor space. You tell the child the root words, then they need to go and hunt for the matching contraction. You could also swap this round so that they hunt for the root words when you say the contraction.

Speed Writing

For this activity, give your child some chalk for writing in your outdoor space (or paper). Each round of the game will have a 2 minute time limit. You say two root words, then your child writes the matching contraction as many times as they can in the time limit. What's their top score? Turn it into a challenge, making sure to check their spelling and correct together if necessary.

