

LESSON 9:

CONTRACTIONS

Host: In this lesson, we will learn about contractions. Contractions are formed by combining two words into one word. The apostrophe takes the place of one or more letters, so the contraction is quicker to read and write. For example, *you* and *are* combine to form the contraction *you're*.

Teacher: Today we'll learn about contractions. I bet that everyone here has used the word *don't*. For example, you might say something like, "I don't want to do my chores today." *Don't* is a contraction. It is made up of the words *do* and *not*. If you said, "I do not want to do my chores today," you are saying the same thing as, "I don't want to do my chores today."

It's shorter and quicker to use a contraction. We will learn about many contractions. You'll see contractions in your reading, and you may want to use them in your writing, too.

In the sentence, "I don't like watermelon," the word *don't* is a contraction for *do not*. A contraction puts two words together and replaces letters with an apostrophe. The *o* in *not* is replaced with an apostrophe. The word is now *don't*. What's the word?

Correct, the word is *don't*. Good. What two words form the contraction *don't*?

Right, *do* and *not*. Let's form another contraction. Read the words, please.

Correct, *had not*. The *o* in *not* is replaced with an apostrophe: *had not, hadn't*. Repeat, please.

Good job. In the sentence, "We'll take the test tomorrow," the word *we'll* is a contraction for *we will*. A contraction puts two words together and replaces letters with an apostrophe. The *wi* in *will* is replaced with an apostrophe. The word is now *we'll*. What's the word?

Correct, the word is *we'll*. Good. What two words form the contraction *we'll*?

Right, *we* and *will*. Let's form another contraction. Read the words, please.

Correct, *I will*. The *wi* in *will* is replaced with an apostrophe: *I will, I'll*. Repeat, please.

Good job. You have learned that contractions are formed from two words. You have learned to read a contraction. The next step is learning to spell contractions. I'll use the word *wouldn't* to demonstrate how to spell contractions. Here's the word in a sentence: "She wouldn't get out of bed." What words form *wouldn't*?

That's right, *would* and *not* form *wouldn't*. As I spell *wouldn't* on the board, I will model what I'm thinking as I spell. Because I know *wouldn't* is made up of *would* and *not*, first I write *would*.

Contractions form one word from two words, so there is not a space between *would* and the next letter, which is the *n* in *not*.

An apostrophe replaces the *o* in *not*, so I write an apostrophe and *t*: *would not*, *wouldn't*. Repeat, please.

Correct, *would not*, *wouldn't*. Let's spell *isn't*. Here's the contraction in a sentence: "She isn't going to school." What words form *isn't*?

Correct, *is* and *not*. First, I write *is*. What do I put after *is*?

Exactly! Instead of writing *not*, I write *n*, and an apostrophe, and *t*. What's the contraction?

Good job! *Isn't* is the contraction.

Remember, a contraction is two words that are put together to make one word, connected by an apostrophe. It's shorter and quicker to use a contraction. You'll use them often in your reading and may want to use them again in your writing.

Host:

Remember, contractions are formed by combining two words into one word. The apostrophe takes the place of the letters that are removed.

