

## 12. Contractions

Besides showing possession, apostrophes also show the omission of one or more letters when words are combined into **contractions**. Here is a list of some of the most common contractions.

<u>Long Form</u>	<u>Contraction</u>
I am	I'm
I had	I'd
I have	I've
it is	it's
we will	we'll
they will	they'll
we are	we're
they are	they're
do not	don't
does not	doesn't
did not	didn't
let us	let's
is not	isn't
are not	aren't
should not	shouldn't
will not	won't

Some teachers object to students using contractions in their writing and some do not. It is best to ask your teachers whether they find them acceptable or not. If you do use contractions, make sure you put the apostrophe in place of the letter or letters you omit.

### Exercise 1

In each of the sentences below, correct any contraction errors you find.

Example: When John returns, he wont want to eat dinner. Correct: When John returns, he won't want to eat dinner.

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1. The store is having a sale on sheets and pillowcases, but theyll probably be sold out by the end of the week.
  2. Even though theyre going to be arriving late, they will not be hungry because they will have eaten dinner on the plane.
  3. Students shouldnt wait until the night before a test to review all their

class notes, for it is not the most effective way of remembering lots of detailed information.

4. The recipes dont call for adding wine, but my mother feels that the final results arent as flavorful without it.
5. Were planning on leaving town for the holidays, but we shouldnt be gone for more than two or three weeks.
6. Most young people arent willing to follow their parents' advice, but they will benefit from at least listening to it.
7. Even though good teachers dont enjoy failing students, theyre concerned about being honest with students about the quality of their work.
8. Theyll not be arriving at the station until 8:00 p.m., so were going to have dinner at home first and then leave to pick them up.

## Exercise 2

Proofread the sentences below for correct use of apostrophes in contractions. Make sure the apostrophe is in the proper place.

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1. Bruno, my friend's dog, didnt turn out to be the vicious beast Id heard about.
2. As a matter of fact, Ive never seen a dog that was more docile and well-behaved.
3. People shouldnt believe all the stories they hear about other people's pets.
4. Most dogs dont take to strangers very well to begin with, but when Bruno didnt even bark at the sight of me, I was most surprised.
5. Bruno isnt allowed in the living room, and its amazing how he does'nt set foot within the boundaries of that particular place.
6. Bruno wont sit still, so strangers walking past the front door of my friend's home, should not approach unannounced.

7. In addition, Bruno has a curious "roommate," a cat who doesn't move outside of a self-designated area of about twelve inches in diameter.
8. Bruno and the cat didn't get into any territorial hassles when I was there, but I'd bet money that they occasionally must get into playful tiffs of one sort or another.