

Contractions - Group 1



You're reading with...



the lion cubs!

Getting Ready - A Broad View of the Landscape Before You Begin



This expedition is the first of two expeditions devoted solely to learning about contractions. We recommend that you teach your reader about contractions by discussing the following three questions:

1. What is a contraction?
2. What is an apostrophe and when is it used?
3. How do we read contractions?

We have identified thirty-two commonly used contractions, and have divided them into two equal groups of sixteen. At first glance, sixteen items may seem like a lot for one expedition. You will most likely discover, however, that because the words being "contracted" are familiar to your safari mate, he or she will have little problem reading the contractions, once the concept is understood. As always, don't feel compelled to accomplish learning all of the items in one session. Set a pace appropriate to your reader's ability and age.

1. What is a contraction?

A contraction is a word made from two other words, which has been made shorter than the two original words, with the use of something called an *apostrophe*.

2. What is an *apostrophe*?

An *apostrophe* is a special mark that looks like this ('). In creating a contraction, an apostrophe is used in place of some letters that are left out when two words are combined.

Here are some examples of contractions:

Original Words	How to make the contraction:	Contraction
I am	eliminate the space and "a", and "contract" the two words using an apostrophe to form "I'm"	I'm
can not	eliminate the space and "no", and "contract" the two words using an apostrophe to form "can't"	can't
could not	eliminate the space and "o", and "contract" the two words using an apostrophe to form "couldn't"	couldn't

3. How do we read contractions?

Flash Card Set 29 has the first set of 16 contractions. Pair the contractions together, and lay them out (in two groups) or on a table on the floor in front of your reader as follows on the next page.

can not	can't
do not	don't
does not	doesn't
have not	haven't
I am	I'm
it is	it's
must not	mustn't
what is	what's

are not	aren't
could not	couldn't
did not	didn't
he is	he's
is not	isn't
she is	she's
was not	wasn't
who is	who's

Focus on only eight sets of contractions at a time (one of the two groups above). Model reading each set of contractions for your safari mate. First, say the original two words. Next, point out *how* the contraction is made - a space and some letters are eliminated. Last, read the word in its contracted form.

After the lesson on *how* each contraction is formed, simply read each set of contractions for your safari mate. For right now, this is the most important part of the expedition for your student. *He or she just needs to remember how to read the contracted form of the words.* It's great if he or she also understands the original words and meanings of each contracted form. When all of the contractions for this expedition have been mastered and the activities and Funsheets in this folder have been completed, you are ready to move on to the last expedition, Reading Expedition 75.

Taking a Closer Look - Sample Dialogue to Help Direct Your Course

Tour Guide: "Have you ever said you *can't* do something or *didn't* want to go somewhere?"

Reader: "Lots of times!"

Tour Guide: "The words *can't* and *didn't* are examples of special words called contractions."

Reader: "What is a contraction?"

Tour Guide: "A contraction is a word made from two other words that has been made shorter than the two original words with the use of something called an apostrophe."

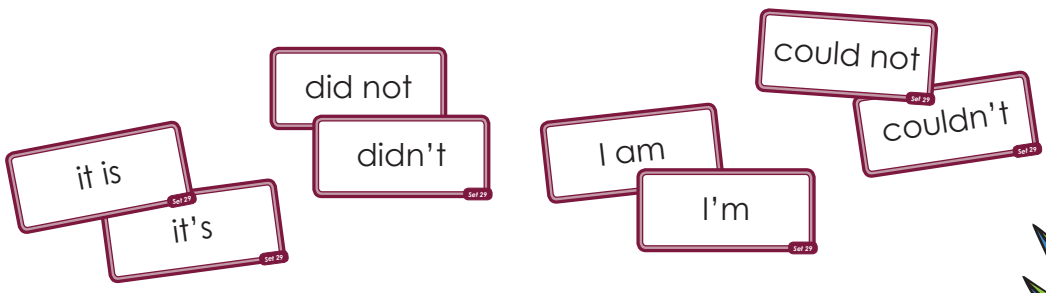
Reader: "What is an 'apostrophe'?"

Tour Guide: "It will be easier, I think, if I show you what I mean. Look at these words in the left column. I'll read them for you. They are words we use all of the time, aren't they?"

Reader: "Yes."

Tour Guide: "Now, look at the right column. The right column shows the words in a 'contracted' form. That means we take out one or more letters from our original words and replace them with an 'apostrophe'. (Tour Guide shows child what an apostrophe looks like.) Then, we put the two words together to form a 'contraction'. Instead of saying, 'I am', you can say, 'I'm'. Instead of saying, 'she is', you can say, 'she's'. Contractions are like short cuts when we read or speak or write! Do you understand?"

Reader: "Yes!"



Lions live in groups called prides. Prides have male lions, female lions (lionesses) and lion cubs.



What You'll Need to Pack for the Safari



You will need Flash Card Set 29.

Results to Achieve During Your Expedition



The reader will understand the meaning and use of contractions and apostrophes, and will read the sixteen words in their contracted form presented in this expedition.

Jungle Journal

Accomplished with Excellence	Expedition Activities:		
	I am	I'm	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	she is	she's	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	did not	didn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	he is	he's	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	it is	it's	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	can not	can't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	do not	don't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	was not	wasn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	does not	doesn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	must not	mustn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	is not	isn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	have not	haven't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	could not	couldn't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	what is	what's	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	who is	who's	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	are not	aren't	Reader reads the original words and their contracted form
	Reader completes Funsheets (instructions to be read by Tour Guide)		
	Reader draws a star on the Safari Success Trail, in space number 74 (check off Jungle Journal in the backpack to advance)		

Circle the contraction on the right that can be used in place of the words underlined.



I am not going to leave you here.

I'm

isn't

She did not tell me her name.

don't

didn't

Please do not eat my candy.

don't

doesn't

The baby must not wake up yet.

mustn't

doesn't

That boy is not going with us.

it's

isn't

What is your name?

what's

who's

She could not see the difference.

couldn't

can't

They are not very nice.

aren't

isn't

Aren't you proud of yourself?



The first oval in each of the pairs below shows two words.
The second oval shows those words in their contracted form.
Draw a line through the letter and the space that has been taken out to
make the contraction. The first one is done for you.

have/~~not~~

haven't

who is

who's

she is

she's

do not

don't

did not

didn't

what is

what's

was not

wasn't

could not

couldn't

Play "Contraction Memory!"

(for two players)

Here's how...

1. There are two sets of contraction cards. Find Flash Card Set 29 for this game.
2. Shuffle the flash cards together. There should be 32 cards in all.
3. Spread the cards out on a table, face down, in 4 rows of 8 each.
4. Player 1 turns over two cards. If he or she has turned over "matching" cards ("do not" and "don't" for example) he or she picks up the cards to make a "pair". (Player 1 continues to turn over two cards at a time until he or she does not make a pair). If the two cards do not match, the cards are turned face down again and it is Player 2's turn to try. The game progresses in this manner until there are no more cards.
5. The player with the most matches (or "pairs") wins the game.
6. You will want to repeat this game using the second set of contraction flash cards (Flash Card Set 30) in Reading Expedition 75.

