

Contractions and Negatives

A **contraction** is a shortened form of two words. An **apostrophe** is used to show where one or more letters have been left out. Some contractions are made by combining pronouns and verbs: *I + have = I've*; *you + are = you're*. Other contractions are formed by joining a verb and *not*: *should + not = shouldn't*; *were + not = weren't*.

- *Won't* and *can't* are formed in special ways (*can + not = can't*; *will + not = won't*).

Negatives are words that mean “no” or “not”: *no, not, never, none, nothing*. Contractions with *n't* are negatives too. To make a negative statement, use only one negative word.

No: Don't never ask about his leg. There won't be none left.

Yes: Don't ever ask about his leg. There won't be any left.

- Use positive words instead of the negative in a sentence with *not*:

Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
nobody	anybody, somebody	nothing	anything, something
no one	anyone, someone	nowhere	anywhere, somewhere
none	any, all, some	never	ever, always

Directions Write the letter of the two words used to form each contraction.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| _____ 1. what's | A has not |
| _____ 2. that'll | B that will |
| _____ 3. didn't | C they are |
| _____ 4. hasn't | D could not |
| _____ 5. they're | E did not |
| _____ 6. couldn't | F what has |

Directions Write the contraction for each pair of words.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 7. would + have = _____ | 8. it + is = _____ |
| 9. she + will = _____ | 10. will + not = _____ |

Directions Circle the word in () that correctly completes each sentence.

11. You can't (never, ever) tell what those boys will do.
12. There wasn't (nobody, anything) in the hole.