

# 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.