

SPaG Knowledge Organiser: Apostrophes for Contraction

Key Vocabulary

apostrophe: A punctuation mark used to show possession or to represent missing letter(s) in a contracted form.

contracted form: Short words made by putting two words together and omitting some letters, which are replaced by an apostrophe.

informal: A type of speech or writing used in 'relaxed' texts and situations.

formal: A type of speech or writing used in 'serious' texts and situations.

Try to remember...

Apostrophes for contraction are great for **informal** writing, especially when using direct speech. However, when writing a **formal** piece, try to avoid them as much as possible.

Starting Out!

First, you must recognise which words can become a **contracted form**.

Do not go into that cave!



Try It!

Now, try putting those words together to create a contracted form. You must think about which letter(s) will be removed.

Do not go into that cave!



Donot go into that cave!



Dont go into that cave!

Apply It!

Use an **apostrophe** to show where the missing letter(s) would have been.

Don't go into that cave!

Try to use a range of contracted forms within your **informal** writing, using an apostrophe to show where the missing letter(s) would have been.

Why **haven't** you tidied your room?

I think **it's** over there.

I'll go first because **I'm** the fastest.

Become an Expert!

To become an expert at using apostrophes for contraction, there are a few words you will need to be careful with; they have different meanings when used with or without an apostrophe.

Word	Meaning	Example
lets	allows	My neighbour lets me walk their dog at the weekend.
let's	let us	Let's go fishing this afternoon.
its	belongs to the noun	The dog chased its tail.
it's	it is	Look! It's over there!

Congratulations – you have reached expert status!