

Contractions

By definition, a contraction is a shortened form of a group of words. Contractions are used in both written and oral communication. When a contraction is written in English, the omitted letters are replaced by an apostrophe.

Here are some common contractions and the groups of words that they represent.

aren't → are not	there's → there is; there has
can't → cannot	they'd → they had; they would
couldn't → could not	they'll → they will; they shall
didn't → did not	they're → they are
doesn't → does not	they've → they have
don't → do not	we'd → we had; we would
hadn't → had not	we're → we are
hasn't → has not	we've → we have
haven't → have not	weren't → were not
he'd → he had; he would	what'll → what will; what shall
he'll → he will; he shall	what're → what are
he's → he is; he has	what's → what is; what has
I'd → I had; I would	what've → what have
I'll → I will; I shall	where's → where is; where has
I'm → I am	who's → who had; who would
I've → I have	who'll → who will; who shall
isn't → is not	who're → who are
let's → let us	who's → who is; who has
mightn't → might not	who've → who have
mustn't → must not	won't → will not
shan't → shall not	wouldn't → would not
she'd → she had; she would	you'd → you had; you would
she'll → she will; she shall	you'll → you will; you shall
she's → she is; she has	you're → you are
shouldn't → should not	you've → you have
that's → that is; that has	

One contraction that is not on the above list is “it’s.” It is useful to note that “it’s,” a contraction, is often confused with “its,” a possessive pronoun. Remember,

it's → it is	and	its → possessive pronoun
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Here they are used in sentences.

It's really nice outside today. → **It is** really nice outside today.
The dog ate **its** food. (The food **belongs** to the dog.)

The list of contractions in this handout was adapted from
<http://grammar.about.com/od/words/a/EnglishContractions.htm>