

Contractions

EXERCISE 105

Study these lines from well-known poems, then write the contractions they contain in a column and opposite each write its full form.

Example: "Now **don't** go till I come," he said.
(**don't**—do not)

1. It's April, and blossom time, and white is the may.
(*The West Wind*—John Masefield)
2. "There's a porpoise close behind us, and he's treading on my tail."
(*The Lobster Quadrille*—Lewis Carroll)
3. "I'll go to my tower on the Rhine," replied he.
(*Bishop Hatto*—Robert Southey)
4. "Here's a treasure I've found; what a feast it will be."
(*The Mouse and the Cake*—Eliza Cook)
5. "But I'd give my soul for the smell o' the pitch,"
Says he, "in Plymouth Sound."
(*The Admiral's Ghost*—Alfred Noyes)
6. Said Francis then, "Faith, gentlemen, we're better here than there."
(*The Glove and the Lions*—Leigh Hunt)
7. "I'm an owl; you're another. Sir Critic, good-day!"
(*The Owl-Critic*—James T. Fields)
8. "And what's dead can't come to life, I think."
(*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*—Robert Browning)
9. "The spider up there defied despair;
He conquered, and why shouldn't I?"
(*Try Again*—Eliza Cook)
10. We'll honour yet the school we knew.
(*The Best School of All*—Henry Newbolt)

Contractions

EXERCISE 106

Each of the following sentences contains two words from which a **contraction** can be formed. Write, in a column, the two words in each case, and opposite them write their shortened form.

Example: He **does not** live in this street now.
(**does not**—doesn't)

1. You are very much taller than Mary.
2. We have had a very mild winter this year.
3. You had better take a taxi to the station.
4. The farmer would not believe the poacher's story.
5. Jennifer is not taking part in the play.
6. Flies do not bother us in the winter.
7. Sally has not been absent once this year.
8. "You shall not have my orange," growled Bill.
9. "You must not be late for school," warned the teacher.
10. The swallow does not spend the winter in this country.
11. "Who has been sitting in my chair?" squeaked Baby Bear.
12. There will be buns for tea today.
13. "Who would like to come to the sports?" asked Father.
14. "I have not had my chocolate," grumbled Paul.
15. She will be coming round the mountain.
16. The crow could not reach the water in the pitcher.
17. There were not any apples left on the tree.
18. Peter has sprained his ankle and will not be able to play.
19. "I am sure I locked the front door," said Mother.
20. The girls are not going to play rounders.

Points to Remember

1. Contractions are used chiefly in conversation and in friendly letters. When writing a composition it is better to write the words in full.
2. When using contractions always remember to use the correct number of the verb. For example, you should not say:

"He **don't** like playing rugby."
Say, "He **doesn't** like playing rugby."