

## **APOSTROPHE: I. KEY EXPERIENCE - CONTRACTIONS**

### **Materials:**

- Title labels: Apostrophein (Greek) means 'to turn away'.written in red  
Contractus (Latin) means 'to pull together'. written in red  
Contraction Key Experience written in red  
Apostrophe Key Experience written in red
- Red apostrophe labels from the printed alphabet
- Blank labels
- Black pen and red pen
- Children's notebooks and pencils

### **Presentation:**

1. Gather a group of children around a table or rug.
2. Say, "We have been working with periods, question marks, and exclamation marks. Today we are going to do more activities with punctuation marks and with root words."
3. Say, "Remember when we combined two root words to form new words with new meanings?" Discuss.
4. Say, "Today we are going to combine two root words but we won't change the meaning."
5. Write the words 'was' and 'not' on blank labels with a black pen.
6. Invite a child to read the labels.
7. Tear the label between the 'n' and the 'o' and after the 'o'.

8. Say, "We're going to turn away the 'o'. Pull the 'o' above the word. Pull the 'o' higher and turn it over.
9. Insert an apostrophe symbol label in the space from which the 'o' was removed.
10. Say, "This mark which took the place of the letter 'o' is called an apostrophe."
11. Say, "The word 'apostrophe' comes from the Greek word 'apostrophein', which means 'to turn away'. This is the Apostrophe Key Experience."
12. Place the apostrophe title label above the apostrophe symbol label. Place the apostrophe etymology label below the apostrophe title label.

Apostrophe Key Experience

Apostrophein (Greek) means 'to turn away'.

o

Apostrophe

was n ' t

13. Proceed to pull together the letters of the contraction: wasn't.
14. Say, "Now we're going to pull the two words together to form one word."
15. Say, "When we pull the remaining letters together, the new shorter word is called a contraction. This word 'wasn't' is a contraction."
16. Place the contraction title label above the presentation.
17. Say, "The word 'contraction' comes from the Latin word 'contractus,' which means 'to pull together.' This is the Contraction Key Experience."

18. Place the contraction etymology label below the contraction title label.
19. Write other word pairs on blank labels and proceed as above, inviting the children to tear off letters to be omitted, pulling letters to be omitted above, turning them over, and inserting apostrophe symbol labels in their places.
20. The children record this presentation in their notebooks.

Apostrophe Key Experience

Contraction Key Experience

Apostrophein (Greek) means to turn away.

Contractus (Latin) means to pull together.

Apostrophe

Contractions

was n ' t

wasn't

is n ' t

isn't

has n ' t

hasn't

no  
can ' t

can't

**Direct Aim:**

1. To understand the apostrophe, its meaning, and its usage in words.
2. To understand the contraction, its meaning, and its usage in words.

**Age:**

6 - 9 years

Note: The Key Experience is repeated each year.

## APOSTROPHE: II. CONTRACTIONS

### Materials:

- A set of contractions and a matching set of words from which the set of contractions were made
- Title label: 'Contractions'
- Children's notebooks and pencils

### Presentation:

1. Gather a group of children around a table or rug.
2. Say, "We have been working with contractions and apostrophes. A contraction is a word made from two root words by removing some letters to form a shortened word. The removed letters are replaced by an apostrophe."
3. Distribute the root word labels.
4. Invite the children, one at a time, to read and to place each of their labels in one column.
5. Distribute the contraction labels.
6. Invite the children, one at a time, to read and to place each of their contraction labels to the right of the root word labels in a column.
7. Invite a child to read and to place the contraction title label above the appropriate column.
8. The children record this presentation in their notebooks.

### Contractions

I am	I'm
you are	you're
he is	he's
she is	she's
it is	it's
we are	we're
they are	they're

#### Direct Aim:

1. To understand the apostrophe, its meaning, and its usage in words.
2. To understand the contraction, its meaning, and its usage in words.

#### Age:

6 - 9 years

**Note:** The children may use this material, O1 - O10, independently.

**Material:**

**Box O1: Apostrophes**

I am	I'm	you are	you're	he is	he's
she is	she's	they are	they're	we are	we're
it is	it's				

**Box O2: Apostrophes**

I have	I've	you have	you've	she is	she's
it is	it's	we have	we've	they have	they've
he is	he's				

**Box O3: Apostrophes**

I shall	I'll	you will	you'll	she will	she'll
he will	he'll	we shall	we'll	they will	they'll

**Box O4: Apostrophes**

I had	I'd	you had	you'd	he had	he'd
she had	she'd	we had	we'd	they had	they'd

**Box O5: Apostrophes**

are not	aren't	is not	isn't	was not	wasn't
were not	weren't	will not	won't		

**Box O6: Apostrophes**

have not	haven't	has not	hasn't	had not	hadn't
do not	don't	does not	doesn't	did not	didn't

**Box O7: Apostrophes**

cannot      can't      could not      couldn't      should not      shouldn't  
would not      wouldn't      shall not      shan't      of the clock      o'clock

**Box O8: Apostrophes**

might not      mightn't      must not      mustn't      that is      that's  
there is      there's      who is      who's      let us      let's

**Box O9: Apostrophes**

Whales aren't fish.      Trilobites haven't lived for millions of years.  
A lake isn't a landform.      The rat's cage hasn't been cleaned today.  
Starfish don't have backbones.      Dimetrodon wasn't a dinosaur.  
A reptile doesn't have gills.  
There weren't any flowers during the Paleozoic Era.

**Box O10: Apostrophes**

Clouds aren't living things.  
The plants haven't been watered today.  
Entertainment isn't a basic need.  
A square doesn't have acute angles.  
Some triangles don't have obtuse angles.  
Life on other planets hasn't been discovered yet.  
Humans weren't on earth until the Cenozoic Era.  
Columbus wasn't the first person to discover the Americas.