


Year 1 Contractions: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to contractions can help you support your child's learning at home. Learning is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring contractions together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to explore what a contraction is, or they are comfortable with using contractions in their writing and want to broaden their knowledge, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step contained in this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Contractions

What Are Contractions?

As your child's confidence in reading and writing increases, they will begin to learn about contractions. A contraction is a shortened version of two words. For example:

do not becomes don't is not becomes isn't she is becomes she's

Contractions are used in informal writing and everyday speech. In year 1, children are taught to recognise words with contractions and begin to understand that an apostrophe is used to represent the missing letter or letters.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with contractions, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use them, both in their spoken language and in their writing, are described below.

Read, Read, Read!

When reading with your child, spot contractions in the writing. Discuss which words the contractions represent and what letter or letters are missing.

Contractions Matching Game

Cut a piece of paper in to eight or more equal pieces. Write a selection of contractions and the words that correspond to each one (e.g. wasn't and was not) on the pieces of paper. Shuffle the pieces of paper before challenging your child to find the matching pairs.

Contractions Bingo

Write a list of (10-15) words that can be contracted on a piece of paper in a jumbled-up order. Draw an eight-square grid on a piece of paper and write a selection of contractions in the grid squares - you'll need one grid per player. The 'caller' calls out the words from the sheet and the players mark the corresponding contractions off their grid if they match. The first player to complete their grid wins.

Memory Game

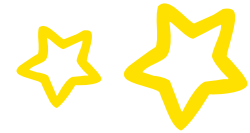
Write a selection of contractions and their corresponding words on separate pieces of card or paper. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in a grid on the table. Take it in turns to turn over a card then and try to find the other matching card. If they match, the player takes the pair, if not, turn the cards face down again. Swap players and repeat, trying to remember where each card is.



Step 1

What Are Contractions?

In year 1, your child will begin to recognise words with contractions when they are reading and will also begin to understand that an apostrophe is used to represent the missing letter or letters. They will use contractions in their spoken language and begin to recognise that contractions are used in informal everyday speech and writing. These contractions visual aids show how words are shortened, which letters are missed out and how apostrophes are used.



Contractions in Sentences

At this stage, your child will use contractions orally and may begin to use common contractions in their writing, although they will not formally be introduced to them at school until year 2. This contraction matching activity is a great way to help your child recognise key contractions and the corresponding words that go with them. Encourage your child to use the cards to make sentences using contractions.

Step 2

Step 3

Contraction Examples

Your child will begin to collect together a variety of different examples of contractions to use in everyday speech and informal writing. They will experiment with using different examples within simple sentences. This word mat is a useful visual aid for children to help broaden their vocabulary or test spellings.



Using Apostrophes for Contractions

If your child is feeling confident using and understanding contractions, they will be able to use apostrophes correctly to show the missing letter or letters. This booklet can help children consolidate their understanding of the correct use of apostrophes in contractions.

Step 4



Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!