



CONTRACTIONS & POSSESSIVES FLIP STRIPS

PRODUCT CODE: **325**

PRODUCT CONTENTS

MANIPULATIVES: 22 pages/11 ds sheets
(42 contractions & 35 possessives)

6 pages of teacher information

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

All sets or cards in Reading Manipulatives products are different. Once students are introduced to the skills and shown how to do the activity, they work independently. The individualized materials can be used for seatwork or stations. Students work on needed skills, and teachers are freed for instruction.

This guide includes a summary of the skills targeted by this product. Additional teaching aids can be downloaded from the resource section of our web site (www.readingmanipulatives.com).

MATERIALS PREPARATION

The PDF pages are designed to be printed on 8.5 x 11 inch sheets. Cover-weight paper in a variety of colors is available at office supply stores or online. The flip strips are printed double-sided. The back contains the letters that are flipped over, and they must be close to the paper edge for the flip strips to work. For this reason, the pages need to be printed on commercial digital printers rather than desktop models since these will cut off part of the first letter. Commercial printers can print right to the edge. School district print shops may be able to print these for you. If not, retail print shops can print the PDF file double-sided on cover stock. The 22 pages (pp. 7–28 of this file) will print on 11 sheets.

Lamination is recommended if you want your materials to last. Cut the flip strips along the horizontal lines with a trimmer. After all sheets have been cut apart, fold over the right edges. The fold lines vary in this product. To make the folds, simply line up the text on the back next to where the contraction starts then crease. On the possessives, fold to the correct spelling for the plural possessive. Due to paper weight and lamination, folds may not hold. Place a rubber band over several folded flip strips to set the folds.

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CONTRACTED VERBS

APOSTROPHE USE IN ENGLISH

Apostrophes are used in English in possessive nouns and contracted verbs. This product has flip strips for all 42 verb contractions. On the 35 flip strips for possessives nouns, the singular possessive is changed to a plural possessive when folded.

The strips for possessives include both regular and irregular spellings. Both spelling and usage rules apply to possessives, making them much more challenging to learn than contracted verbs.

CONTRACTED VERBS

An apostrophe is used to show where a letter or letters are left out of a contracted verb. Many consider the use of contractions in academic writing unacceptable. However, contractions are commonly used in spoken English and casual writing.

The adverb *not* when used with a verb denotes the opposite. One type of contracted verb is formed when *not* is joined to a verb and the *o* is dropped. The apostrophe is inserted where the *o* is dropped. In *can't* and *won't*, the spelling of the verb is altered.

are not	aren't	has not	hasn't
cannot	can't	have not	haven't
could not	couldn't	is not	isn't
did not	didn't	should not	shouldn't
do not	don't	were not	weren't
does not	doesn't	will not	won't
had not	hadn't	would not	wouldn't

The remaining verb contractions join pronouns with verbs *is*, *are*, *have*, *will*, and *would*. Part of the verb is omitted, and this is where the apostrophe is placed.

he will	he'll	he is	he's
I will	I'll	here is	here's
it will	it'll	it is	it's
she will	she'll	one is	one's
we will	we'll	she is	she's
you will	you'll	that is	that's
		there is	there's
I have	I've	what is	what's
they have	they've	who is	who's
we have	we've		
you have	you've	he would	he'd
		I would	I'd
they are	they're	we would	we'd
we are	we're	you would	you'd
you are	you're	she would	she'd
		they would	they'd

POSSESSIVES

The placement of the apostrophe in possessive nouns depends on whether the noun that denotes possession is singular or plural. In most plurals, the apostrophe goes before the *s* if the noun is singular (*'s*) and after the *s* if the noun is plural (*'s*). However, words already ending in *s* and irregular plural formations make this skill more troublesome. The possessive flip strips in this product illustrate all types of plural formations, hopefully helping students to understand these.

STANDARD SINGULAR & PLURAL SPELLINGS

Generally showing possession in English is an easy matter. Singular nouns are made into possessives by adding *'s*. On plurals that have been formed by adding *s*, simply add the apostrophe after the *s* (*'s*). Fifteen of the flip strips in this set have standard spellings.

SUFFIX SPELLING CHANGES

Suffix spelling rules for plurals are incorporated into the flip strips. The two applicable rules are:

1. Words ending with *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, or *sh*, add *-es*
dress' dresses' box's boxes' church's churches' dish's dishes'
2. Words ending in *y* preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to *i* if suffix begins with *e*
baby's babies' fly's flies' key's keys' day's days'

Plurals formed in both of instances end in *s*, so and apostrophe is added after the *s* to denote possession. Eleven flip strips have plurals incorporating these spelling rules. The likely errors in student writing would be in the spelling, as opposed to the apostrophe use.

WORDS ENDING IN S

When the noun ends in *s*, many writers add only the apostrophe (*boss' desk, witness' testimony, class' behavior, Charles' bike*). Proper nouns ending in *s* (*Charles*) and words ending in double *s* (*boss*) are particularly cumbersome when *'s* is added. Since there is not universal agreement on this, the key is consistency. Do not switch back and forth. In these flip strips, the possessives of singular nouns ending in *s* are formed by adding an apostrophe only.

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Some English words have irregular plural formations. Again, it is the plural formation, rather than the placement of apostrophes in possessives, that make these challenging. Examples are:

1. Words that change in the plural form
man's men's woman's women's child's children's mouse's mice's ox's oxen's
tooth's teeth's goose's geese's foot's feet's fireman's firemen's
2. Plural same spelling as singular
deer's deer's fish's fish's trout's trout's sheep's sheep's series' series'
3. Words ending in *-o* form plurals with *s*, *es*, or are correct with either spelling
s: piano's pianos' zoo's zoos' video's videos' photo's photos' auto's autos'
es: hero's heroes' tomato's tomatoes' echo's echoes' potato's potatoes'
either: volcano's volcanos' volcanoes' buffalo's buffalos' buffaloes'
4. Words ending in *f* or *fe* are changed to *ves* in plural
calf's calves' wife's wives' elf's elves' life's lives' leaf's leaves'

do not

we are

you will

here is

I would

has not

we have

n't

're

'll

's

'd

n't

've

boy's

queen's

family's

ostrich's

man's

elf's

child's

s'

s'

ies'

es'

en's

ves'

ren's