



## CONTRACTIONS & POSSESSIVES FLIP STRIPS

PRODUCT CODE: **325**

### PRODUCT CONTENTS

11 double-sided, cover-weight sheets  
(42 contractions & 35 possessives)

4 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 materials can be used for seatwork activities or stations. Students work on needed skills, and teachers are freed for instruction.

This guide includes a brief summary of the skills that are targeted by this product. For many skills, additional teaching aids can be downloaded from the resource section of our web site ([www.readingmanipulatives.com](http://www.readingmanipulatives.com)).

### ASSEMBLY & PACKAGING

Reading Manipulatives materials are commercially laminated but must be cut and packaged prior to use. Preparation tips are given.

Flip strips are instructional manipulatives, as opposed to individualized student sets.

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# CONTRACTED VERBS

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## APOSTROPHE USE IN ENGLISH

Apostrophes are used in English in possessive nouns and contracted verbs. This product has flip strips for all 45 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

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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 an apostrophe is added after the *s* to denote possession. Nine 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'

# POSSESSIVES & PREPARATION

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## POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

The possessive pronouns are: *mine, yours, hers, his, its, ours, and theirs*. None have apostrophes. Pronouns used with apostrophes are contracted verbs (*it's – it is, we're – we are*).

## INANIMATE OBJECTS

Some writing authorities contend that it is bad form to use 's possessives for inanimate objects. They suggest that *the cover of the book* should be written instead of *the book's cover*. However, there is no agreed-upon rule regarding this usage. Therefore, since spoken English and informal writing often include 's possessives for inanimate objects, some are included in these flip strips.

## POSSESSIVE FLIP STRIPS

### PLURAL WITH S'

animal's animals'  
bee's bees'  
book's books'  
boy's boys'  
citizen's citizens'  
clown's clowns'  
desk's desks'  
doctor's doctors'  
farmer's farmers'  
girl's girls'  
mayor's mayors'  
queen's queens'  
rabbit's rabbits'  
sister's sisters'  
teacher's teachers'

### PLURAL WITH ES'

church's churches'  
ostrich's ostriches'  
witch's witches'

### PLURAL WITH YS'

monkey's monkeys'  
turkey's turkeys'

### PLURAL WITH IES'

baby's babies'  
enemy's enemies'  
family's families'  
lady's ladies'  
pony's ponies'  
puppy's puppies'

### PLURAL WITH VES'

calf's calves'  
elf's elves'  
wife's wives'

### WORDS ENDING IN S

boss' bosses'  
class' classes'

### IRREGULAR PLURALS

child's children's  
deer's deer's  
man's men's  
woman's women's

## CUTTING & FOLDING

A rotary paper trimmer is ideal for cutting laminated manipulatives. A paper cutter will suffice, but rotary trimmers are more accurate and easier to use. If your school does not have one, rotary trimmers can be purchased at art and office supply stores or at discount warehouse clubs. Large copy centers often have a rotary trimmer available for customer use.

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 the paper weight and lamination, folds will not hold. Place a heavy rubber band over several folded flip strips to set folds.

