

Support for English Learners

Unit 26, page 168: Contractions

Some children may have difficulty understanding the relationship between contractions and their original forms. Children may also have difficulty forming contractions.

Listen

Use the original and contracted forms *I am* and *I'm* in model sentences. Example: *I am very hungry. I'm very hungry. Say: A contraction is a short way of saying or writing two or more words. An apostrophe takes the place of the letter or letters that are left out. Repeat the original and contracted forms I am/I'm. Continue with we will/we'll; you are/you're.*

Speak and Read

Say: *Let's practice some contractions together.* Write the words *do not*, *it is*, and *I have* on the board. Model the Basic Words *don't*, *it's*, and *I've*. Have children chant the contracted and original form of each contraction aloud. Have volunteers go to the board to write each contraction alongside its original form.

Write *I am*, *we will*, and *you are* on the board. Have volunteers create contractions by erasing the letters they don't need and adding apostrophes.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Create and distribute the letter cards *a, d, e, l, m, n, o, r, t, u,* and *y* to each child. Include a letter card with an apostrophe on it. Write *I am* on the board. Have children say *I am*. Then ask them to make the contraction *I'm* with their letter cards by replacing the letter *a* with an apostrophe. Continue with *do not* and *you are*.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Say the original forms *I am*, *we will*, *you are*, and *was not*. Have children change each original form to its contracted form. Write the contractions on the board. Ask: *Which letter or letters did we take away to make each contraction? What did we have to add to make each contraction complete?*

Intermediate/Advanced Have children choose three contractions from the Basic Words list and write them in their word-study notebooks. Ask volunteers to write some of the contractions on the board. Have children create sentences using the contractions. Record their sentences on the board. Say: *What is the contraction in this sentence? What letter or letters should we add to make the original form?*

I ' m

d o n ' t