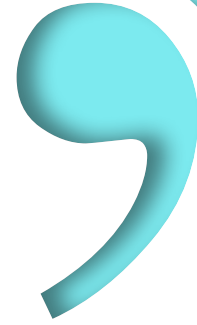


ACTION CONTRACTIONS



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Overview and Tips for Classroom Implementation

Students, especially English Language Learners (ELL) often do not understand that the apostrophe mark in a contraction like can't or wouldn't actually signals to the reader that there are letters missing. In this activity the students pair puzzle pieces to create contractions. I often taught this mini lesson at the beginning of class.

Step-by-Step Lesson Instructions

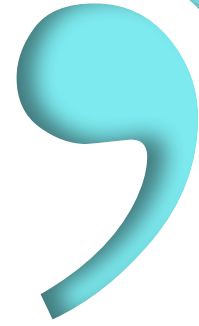
- Step One** Use 4 X 6 index cards and write the words that make up the contraction on one side and the contraction on the other side of the index card. You can use the table (Figure 1) as a resource.
- Step Two** Distribute one puzzle piece per student. Once the students have a puzzle piece, instruct the students to find the matching puzzle piece.
- Step Three** Once the students are correctly paired, have the students create a single line or a circle so that they can see all of the contractions. Discuss with the students the different contractions.

Additional Tips

When I conduct this mini lesson in the classroom, I like to use it as an opening activity. When the student enter the classroom at the beginning of the class period, I hand each of them a puzzle piece. While I take attendance the students need to find their contraction pair and line up. It is also especially helpful for the students if I create the puzzle pieces on matching color paper. It makes it easier to find the paired piece and it also allows the students to do a quick check to ensure that their contraction is correct. For example, the students know that if they have a red piece, they need to pair with a student who has a red puzzle piece, if a student has a blue puzzle piece, they pair with a blue piece, and so on.

FIGURE 1

WORDS & CONTRACTIONS



WORDS

is + not
are + not
was + not
were + not
have + not
has + not
had + not
will + not
would + not
do + not
does + not
did + not
can + not
could + not
should + not
might + not
must + not
I + am
I + am
I + will
I + would
I + had
you + are
you + will
you + would
you + have
he + is
he + will
he + would
he + has
he + had
she + is
she + will
she + would
she + has
she + had

CONTRACTION

isn't
aren't
wasn't
weren't
haven't
hasn't
hadn't
won't
wouldn't
don't
doesn't
didn't
can't
couldn't
shouldn't
mightn't
mustn't
I'm
I'll
I'll
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