

Apostrophes

This is an apostrophe: '.

Apostrophes can be used to show when a letter or letters have been taken out of a word. This is called a **contraction**. So if you want to write **I am** as **I'm**, you put in the apostrophe to show where the **a** is missing and then join the words together.

Apostrophes for possession are used to show that something belongs to someone or something. For example, **the coat belonging to the girl** is written as **the girl's coat**.

Apostrophes for contraction

- Draw lines to match the long form of each word to its short form.

Long form

I am

might have

I shall/will

they are

it is

you are

does not

would have

will not

did not

could not

we are

she is

who is

Short form (contraction)

she's

I'll

couldn't

would've

doesn't

it's

you're

won't

we're

I'm

who's

might've

didn't

they're

The cat is chasing its tail.



The cat's chasing its tail.

Supporting your child Check that your child knows how to use apostrophes in his/her writing. It's easy to put the apostrophe in the wrong place, particularly in informal writing.