

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

Explanations

Contractions

When we speak we often shorten words like *am, are, have, has* in verb forms (auxiliary or 'helping' verbs). When we write these short forms (contractions) we put an apostrophe (') to show that letters are missing.

<i>be</i>	<i>I am</i>	<i>you are</i>	<i>he is</i>	<i>she is</i>	<i>it is</i>	<i>we are</i>	<i>they are</i>
	<i>I'm</i>	<i>you're</i>	<i>he's</i>	<i>she's</i>	<i>it's</i>	<i>we're</i>	<i>they're</i>

Examples

I'm leaving tomorrow.

Jack's going home in a moment.

<i>have</i>	<i>I have</i>	<i>you have</i>	<i>he has</i>	<i>she has</i>	<i>we have</i>	<i>they have</i>
	<i>I've</i>	<i>you've</i>	<i>he's</i>	<i>she's</i>	<i>we've</i>	<i>they've</i>

Examples

I've eaten your sandwiches.

Anna's left her books at school.

- *he's* and *she's* = *he has, she has* or *he is, she is*.

With the modal *have to* we do not make contractions.

I have to leave. (no contraction possible)

<i>can and could</i>	<i>cannot</i>	<i>could not</i>
	<i>can't</i>	<i>couldn't</i>

<i>do</i>	<i>do not</i>	<i>does not</i>
	<i>don't</i>	<i>doesn't</i>

<i>will</i>	<i>will not</i>	<i>shall not</i>
	<i>won't</i>	<i>shan't</i>

<i>would</i>	<i>I would</i>	<i>you would</i>	<i>he would</i>	<i>etc.</i>	<i>would</i>
	<i>I'd</i>	<i>you'd</i>	<i>he'd</i>	<i>etc.</i>	<i>wouldn't</i>

I'd, etc. can also be a contraction for *I had* in the past perfect simple.