

## Contractions

We often shorten words. For example, we may say "he's" instead of "he is". An apostrophe (') is used in place of the missing letter or letters. For example:

- I **haven't** seen him. (= have not)
- **Who's** calling? (= Who is??)
- **They're** coming. (= They are)

We use contractions especially when we speak, not so much in writing. We may use contractions in a friendly letter, for example, but they are not usually correct in more formal texts such as academic papers, business letters or essays.

Some positive contractions can have two or three meanings. For example, "he'd" can be "he had" or "he would". It depends on the rest of the sentence. Look at these examples:

- **He'd** like to go. (= He would)
- **He'd** finished when I arrived. (=He had)

The contraction 's (= is, has, us) is not only used with pronouns. It can also be used with nouns, names, question words and words like "here" and "there", for example:

- The **train's** late. (= is)
- **Rosy's** arrived. (= has)
- **Where's** the phone? (= is)
- **Here's** your change. (= is)
- **There's** a policeman. (= is)
- **Let's** go. (= us)

With the verb "to be", two negative forms are possible:

We **aren't** / **we're** not etc.

Informal contractions are short forms of other words that people use when speaking casually. They are a very informal way of speaking.

For example, "**gonna**" is a short form of "going to". If you say "going to" very fast, without carefully pronouncing each word, it can sound like "gonna".

Unlike normal contractions, we do not usually use apostrophes. For example:

**Whatcha** going to do? / **Whatcha gonna** do? (= What are you going to do?)

Do you **wanna** beer? / **D'you wanna** beer? / **D'ya wanna** beer? / **Ya wanna** beer? / **Wanna** beer? (= Do you want a beer?)

## More Commonly Used Contractions

- I'm = I am
- I've = I have
- I'll = I will/I shall
- I'd = I would/I should/I had
- you're = you are
- you've = you have
- you'll = you will
- you'd = you had/you would
- he's = he has/he is
- he'll = he will
- he'd = he had/he would
- she's = she has/she is
- she'll = she will
- she'd = she had/she would
- it's = it has/it is
- it'll = it will
- we're = we are
- we've = we have
- we'll = we will
- we'd = we had/we would
- they're = they are
- they've = they have
- they'll = they will
- they'd = they had/they would
- aren't = are not
- can't = can not
- couldn't = could not
- daren't = dare not
- didn't = did not
- doesn't = does not
- don't = do not
- hasn't = has not
- haven't = have not
- hadn't = had not
- isn't = is not
- mayn't = may not
- mightn't = might not
- mustn't = must not
- needn't = need not
- oughtn't = ought not
- shan't = shall not
- shouldn't = should not
- wasn't = was not
- weren't = were not
- won't = will not
- wouldn't = would not
- here's = here is
- there'll = there will
- there's = there is
- that's = that is
- that'll = that will
- how's = how is
- what'll = what will
- what's = what is
- when's = when is
- where's = where is
- who's = who is
- who'd = who would /had
- who'll = who will