

Name: _____

Contraction or Possessive Noun?

Contractions and possessive nouns are two types of words with apostrophes.

A **contraction** is a word that takes the place of two other words.
An apostrophe takes the place of missing letters.

example: *Don't sit on that bench because the paint is wet.*
Don't is a contraction for the words "do not."

A **possessive noun** shows that someone has or owns something.
An apostrophe and the letter s are added to show ownership.

example: *That is Dan's car.*
Dan owns the car, so the word Dan's is a possessive noun.

Read each sentence and circle the word with the apostrophe. Then, tell whether the circled word is a contraction or possessive noun.

1. I'll arrive later this afternoon. _____
2. Sarah's pencil tip is broken. _____
3. The dog's bowl is filled with water. _____
4. Haven't you read the book yet? _____
5. What's the matter? _____
6. The children's ball rolled away. _____
7. It's a lovely painting. _____
8. You'll have to pay for that. _____
9. Jim said he's been to China. _____
10. She's the fastest girl on the team. _____

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1. I'll arrive later this afternoon. **contraction (I will)**
2. Sarah's pencil tip is broken. **possessive noun (tip belongs to Sarah)**
3. The dog's bowl is filled with water. **possessive noun (bowl belongs to the dog)**
4. Haven't you read the book yet? **contraction (have not)**
5. What's the matter? **contraction (what is)**
6. The children's ball rolled away. **possessive noun (ball belongs to the children)**
7. It's a lovely painting. **contraction (it is)**
8. You'll have to pay for that. **contraction (you will)**
9. Jim said he's been to China. **contraction (he has)**
10. She's the fastest girl on the team. **contraction (she is)**