

CONTRACTIONS

Contractions are shortened forms of words or short phrases which are created by omitting letters. Missing letters are often replaced by apostrophes.

Ain't Am not/Is not/Are not/Has not/Have not

Aren't Are not

Can't Cannot

Couldn't Could not

Didn't Did not

Doesn't Does not

Don't Do not

Hadn't Had not

Hasn't Has not

Haven't Have not

He'd He Had/He would

He'll He will/He shall

He's He is/He has

I'd I had/I would

I'll I will/I shall

I'm I am

I've I have

Isn't Is not

It's It is

Let's Let us

Mightn't Might not

Mustn't	Must not
Shan't	Shall not
She'd	She had/She would
She'll	She will/She shall
She's	She is/She has
There's	There is/There has
They'd	They had/They would
They'll	They will/They shall
They're	They are
They've	They have
We'd	We had/We would
We're	We are
We've	We have
Weren't	Were not
What'll	What will/What shall
What're	What are
What's	What is/What has/What does
What've	What have
Where's	Where is/Where has
Who'd	Who had/Who would
Who'll	Who Will/Who Shall
Who're	Who are
Who's	Who is/Who has

Who've	Who have
Won't	Will not
Wouldn't	Would not
You'd	You had/You would
You'll	You will/You shall
You're	You Are
You've	You have

CONTRACTIONS IN ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

While contractions are perfectly acceptable in informal writing, some narratives, and even creative writing, Contractions are usually considered informal constructions in formal forms writing (e.g., academic exposition, academic argumentation, scientific, technical, and legal writing). As a consequence, their use is limited in formal situations.

Aside from their informal use, particular contractions can cause confusion.

Example:

The contraction "It's" may mean two different things:

It is (as in: It's raining)

It has (as in: It's been a while since we've talked....)

If you want to be clear, then replacing contractions with the original full words and/or phrases is a good practice.