Build and Read Contractions

Answer guide. The apostrophe stands for missing letters.

The worked example

do not becomes don’t. The apostrophe marks the missing o in not. We keep the words’ meaning while shortening the pair.

1–3

1. I am becomes I’m (missing a). 2. she is becomes she’s (missing i). 3. you are becomes you’re (missing a). Here she’s specifically replaces she is; in other contexts it can also replace she has.

4–6

4. we will becomes we’ll (missing wi). 5. they have becomes they’ve (missing ha). 6. did not becomes didn’t (missing o). The remaining letters stay in order.

7–8: choose by meaning

7. You’re welcome to join us. You’re means you are. 8. Please bring your coat. Your shows that the coat belongs to the reader; it is not a contraction.

The child’s sentence

Accept any sensible sentence using one of the six contractions with its intended meaning. Ask the child to read it back using the two full words. Check the apostrophe together; adult dictation is welcome.