

Name _____

Contractions

- **Generalization** In contractions, an apostrophe replaces omitted letters: **do not** becomes **don't**; **there is** becomes **there's**.

Word Sort Sort the list words by words you know how to spell and words you are learning to spell. Write every word.

**words I know
how to spell**

**words I'm
learning to spell**

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Spelling Words

1. don't
2. won't
3. wouldn't
4. there's
5. we're
6. you're
7. doesn't
8. I've
9. here's
10. wasn't
11. shouldn't
12. couldn't
13. where's
14. hadn't
15. aren't
16. they're
17. it's
18. we've
19. when's
20. haven't



Home Activity Your child is learning to spell contractions. Have your child read each contraction and name the two words each contraction is made from.

Name _____

Family Times

Summary

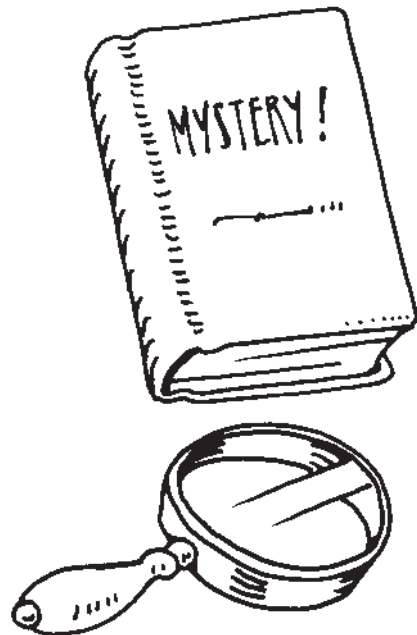
The Case of the Gasping Garbage

Drake Doyle and Nell Fossey are fifth-grade science detectives. When a friend finds a monster in her garbage can, they investigate. After discovering that the receptacle is in a warm place and smells like bread, they think they can find the solution.

in the mixture. This shows that you have trapped wild yeast! The mixture can actually be used to make bread.

Activity

Trapping the Wild Yeast Ask your family to help you trap wild yeast from the air. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of bread flour with $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of warm water. Put the mixture on the kitchen counter and cover it lightly with a material such as cheesecloth, which has holes in it. In about one week, you should see bubbles



Comprehension Skill

Compare and Contrast

When you **compare and contrast**, you tell how things are alike and different. Words such as *similar*, *as*, *unlike*, and *instead* signal a comparison and contrast.

Activity

My Hero Who are your heroes? Ask a family member to choose one of his or her own heroes, and choose one of your own. Discuss your heroes, making comparisons and contrasts between the two people. How are they alike? How are they different?

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *The Case of the Gasping Garbage*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

analysis a careful, detailed, examination

beakers flat-bottomed glass containers used in laboratories

hollow having an empty space inside

identity who or what someone or something is

lecture an educational speech on a particular topic

microscope a device with a lens used for making small things look bigger

precise very exact and accurate

relentless never slackening, but continuing always at the same level

Conventions

Plural Pronouns

Pronouns are words that replace nouns. When pronouns replace one person, place, or thing, a singular pronoun, such as *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, or *it*, is used. *For example: Alicia asked Martin to step into the box. She asked him to step into it.* When pronouns replace more than one person, place, or thing, **plural pronouns**, such as *you*, *us*, *we*, *them*, and *they* are used. *For example: Toni and I helped Mickey and Joy practice their act. We helped them practice their act.* The pronoun *you* can be singular or plural. Be sure to match the correct pronoun to the noun it replaces.

Activity

Pronoun Parade Make a chart of the individual and groups of people in your life. Think about the singular and plural nouns you'd use to talk about them. Then add to your chart objects you use and places you visit frequently. Create sentences using the people, places, and things. Then rewrite the sentences, replacing nouns with pronouns.

Practice Tested Spelling Words

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Name _____

Compare and Contrast

- To compare and contrast means to tell how two or more things are alike and different.
- Clue words such as *like* and *as* can show similarities. Clue words such as *however* and *instead* can show differences.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Is the hand quicker than the eye? Sometimes. A magician may use quick, careful hand movements to make you think you have seen or heard something you haven't. Magicians also use optical illusions, images that fool the eye. These illusions often use mirrors, painted backdrops, or special lighting. Optical illusions make you think you

see something on the stage that is not there. Magicians also use illusions of sound to confuse an audience. You may hear someone's voice sounding like it comes from a box that is actually empty. You may hear the sound of a coin hitting the floor even if no coin has been dropped. Illusions like these make magic seem real.

1. How are the hand movements and optical illusions used by magicians similar?

2. How are these two kinds of visual tricks used by magicians different?

3. How does the sound of a voice contrast with the use of hand movements?

4. Name one other comparison or contrast you could make using this passage.

5. On a separate sheet of paper, predict how a magician might be able to fool one of our other senses, such as the sense of touch or smell.



Home Activity Your child compared and contrasted ideas in a passage and also used these ideas to make a prediction. Have your child compare and contrast two performers or entertainers. Then ask your child to predict other ways two entertainers could be alike and different.

Name _____

Cause and Effect

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Missy wanted to be a detective. Whenever there was a mystery at home, she set out to solve it. One day Mom’s roast disappeared from the counter where it was cooling. “I think I saw someone sneak into our yard!” Missy cried. Meanwhile, Sam, the family

dog, looked very satisfied. Another time, Annie’s homework was lost. “I’ll look for it,” cried Missy. “One of Benny’s friends might have hidden it for a joke!” Benny protested, “None of my friends took it!” The homework turned out to be in Annie’s locker at school.

1. What effect does Missy’s desire to be a detective have on her?

2. What caused the roast to disappear?

3. What caused Missy to be excited when Annie’s homework was lost?

4. Missy says that one of Benny’s friends might have taken the homework. What effect does her statement have?

5. What do you think Missy’s family might say to her about being a detective?

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Home Activity Your child identified causes and effects in a brief passage. Talk about a favorite movie or book. Challenge your child to state some causes and effects from the movie or book.

Name _____

Singular and Plural Pronouns

Directions On the lines below, write pronouns to replace the underlined nouns or noun phrases in the sentences.

1. Get rid of the bloodsucking monsters before they eat us all. 2. Nell scribbled in her notebook. 3. Drake and Nell put on their surgical gloves. 4. Then Drake noticed that the air smelled like fresh-baked bread. 5. You and I need to take the garbage can to my laboratory.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Directions Write a paragraph about a mystery you have solved or helped to solve. Underline any singular or plural pronouns that you use.

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Home Activity Your child learned how to use singular and plural pronouns in writing. Have your child write an e-mail to a friend or relative. Ask your child to print it and show you the singular and plural pronouns.

Contractions

Spelling Words

don't	won't	wouldn't	there's	we're
you're	doesn't	I've	here's	wasn't
shouldn't	couldn't	where's	hadn't	aren't
they're	it's	we've	when's	haven't

Writing Contractions Words from the first and second columns can be combined to form a contraction. Write the contraction.

First Word	Second Word	Contraction
1. do	not	1. _____
2. will	not	2. _____
3. there	has	3. _____
4. we	have	4. _____
5. you	are	5. _____
6. here	is	6. _____
7. have	not	7. _____
8. it	has	8. _____
9. are	not	9. _____
10. they	are	10. _____
11. where	is	11. _____
12. should	not	12. _____
13. does	not	13. _____
14. could	not	14. _____
15. when	is	15. _____
16. was	not	16. _____
17. would	not	17. _____
18. I	have	18. _____
19. we	are	19. _____
20. had	not	20. _____



Home Activity Your child has learned to read, write, and spell contractions. Say the two words from the first and second columns of the chart. Have your child say and spell the contraction.

Name _____

Compare and Contrast

- To **compare and contrast** means to tell how two or more things are alike and different.
- Clue words such as *like* and *as* can show similarities. Clue words such as *however* and *instead* can show differences.

Directions Read the following passage. Then complete the diagram by comparing and contrasting.

Yesterday, when Kim performed her magic act for her family, she was calm and skillful. But today Kim was nervous. She was doing the same magic tricks for all her friends. Everything started well, as her vanishing coin trick worked perfectly. But with her second trick, things

started to go wrong. Kim was trying to guess the card a friend had picked. Kim lost count of the cards in her hand and didn't get it right. Then her deck of cards showered to the floor. Maybe, Kim thought, she should stick to family shows!

First Show and Second Show	
Alike	Different
1. Kim performed _____ each time.	3. Kim felt _____ the first time, but _____ the second time.
2. _____ worked in both shows.	4. During the second show, the second trick _____.
	5. The deck of cards _____ in the second show.

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Home Activity Your child compared and contrasted events described in a written passage. Work with your child to compare and contrast two dinners he or she had this week. Then see if your child can predict how the next dinner will be alike and different from those.

Name _____

Singular and Plural Pronouns

Directions Underline the pronoun in the sentence if it is a singular pronoun. Circle the pronoun if it is a plural pronoun.

1. It was not hard for us to solve the mystery.
2. Yeasts eat starch and sugar which they turn into alcohol and gas.
3. You can be certain there is no monster in the garbage can.
4. We examined it under a microscope.
5. Doyle and Nell were proud of themselves for solving the mystery.

Directions Replace each underlined noun or noun phrase with a pronoun from the box. Write the new sentence and underline the pronoun you chose.

we her you us she

6. Nell said, "Doyle and I are happy that Doyle and I are detectives."

7. We are glad that you hired Nell and me to solve this mystery.

8. Doyle reported to Gabby that the case was solved.

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Home Activity Your child reviewed singular and plural pronouns. Read an article in a magazine or newspaper with your child. Ask him or her to identify examples of singular and plural pronouns in the article.