Squashing words: answers and notes

What your child practised: joining two words into a contraction and putting the apostrophe where the letters are missing (Year 2 spelling and punctuation).

Page 1 · Warm up

don't: **o** · I'm: **a** · wasn't: **o**

Page 2 · Try it together

do not → **don't** (hid o) · I am → **I'm** (hid a) · we are → **we're** (hid a). The last row is your child's choice: check the apostrophe sits where the letters were folded away.

Page 2 · A. Match

is not → **isn't** · I will → **I'll** · she is → **she's** · you are → **you're** · do not → **don't**

Page 3 · B. Ring the right spelling

didn't · **we're** · **I'm** · **wasn't**

Page 3 · C. Squash the words

aren't · **he's** · **we'll**
I've · **they're** · **doesn't**

Page 3 · D. Fix the word

can't · **isn't** · **I'll** (with a capital I)

Challenge: No. When "did not" is squashed, the **o** in "not" drops out, so the apostrophe goes between the n and the t: **didn't**. Leo put it in the gap between the two words. The apostrophe always stands where the missing letter was.

Watch out for

- **Apostrophe between the words** (did'nt, was'nt). Say the two words slowly and ask "which letter goes?" The apostrophe takes that letter's place.
- **No apostrophe at all** (dont, Im). Without it, some become other words, like "were" and "ill".
- **Leaving letters in** (I'am, we'are). The apostrophe replaces the letters that drop out.
- **can't** comes from **cannot**, which is written as one word. Both the extra n and the o drop out.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Squash it:** say two words ("she is"). Your child says the short word and spells it aloud, saying "apostrophe" in the right place.
- **Unsquash it:** say a contraction ("we'll", "isn't"). Your child says the two words it came from.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Spelling contractions, practises spelling can't, didn't, couldn't, hasn't, it's and I'll.