Name _____ Date _____

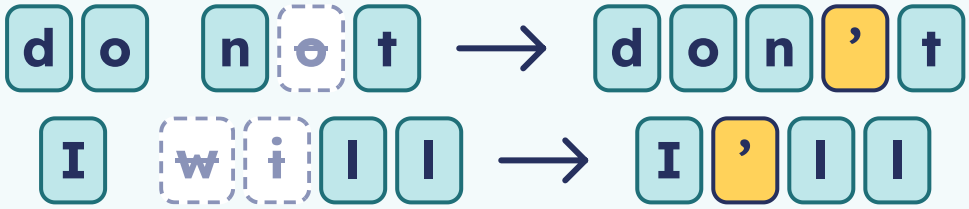
Squashing words

An apostrophe (’) shows where letters are missing.

1 Learn



We often squash two words into one. Some letters drop out and an **apostrophe** sits in their place. The short word is a **contraction**.



The crossed-out letters drop out. The yellow apostrophe goes in their place.

Let’s squash *is not*, step by step

1. Write the two words. — is not
2. Push them together. — isnot
3. Cross out the letter that drops out. — isnot
4. Put the apostrophe in its place. — isn’t **isn’t**

Flip’s tip: the apostrophe goes **where the letters were**, not in the space between the two words. So it’s **didn’t**, not did’nt.

Warm up: which letter has dropped out? Write it in the box.

don’t (do not) ☐ I’m (I am) ☐ wasn’t (was not) ☐

Grown-ups: read Flip’s words aloud. Say "do not" quickly a few times until it sounds like "don’t". Ask your child to put a finger on the apostrophe and say which letter it is standing in for.

Name _____ Date _____

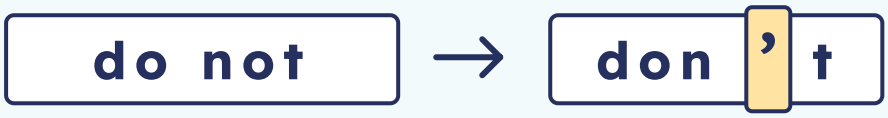
2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Fold-a-word

You need: a few long strips of scrap paper (torn from an old envelope or newspaper edge) and a pencil or crayon.



1. Write two words in big letters on a strip, like **do not**. Say them fast: which letter drops out?
2. Fold the strip so the **space and the missing letter** are hidden inside the fold.
3. Draw an **apostrophe** on the fold, right where the letter was hidden. Read your new word!
4. Try more: **I am, we are, she is, is not**. Write each one in the table.

Two words	Letter(s) I hid	The short word
do not		
I am		
we are		

Grown-ups: for the last row, let your child choose two words to squash. If they fold in the wrong place, unfold and say both words slowly, tapping each letter, to find the one that goes.

3 Practise

A. Draw a line to match the two words to their short word.

is not ●	● I'll
I will ●	● she's
she is ●	● isn't
you are ●	● don't
do not ●	● you're

Name _____ Date _____

B. Draw a ring round the word that is spelled correctly.

did not

did'nt **didn't** **didnt**

we are

were **we're** **we'are**

I am

I'm **Im** **I'am**

was not

was'nt **wasnt** **wasn't**

C. Squash the two words. Write the short word with its apostrophe.

are not → _____ he is → _____ we will → _____

I have → _____ they are → _____ does not → _____

D. Each sentence has a word missing its apostrophe. Write the word again, correctly.

I cant reach the top shelf. _____

Mia isnt at school today. _____

Ill help you tidy up. _____

Challenge

Leo wrote: **"I did'nt see the fox."** Is he right? Where should the apostrophe go, and why?

_____

_____

I can...

Tick when you can.

- [ ] squash two words into one short word
- [ ] put the apostrophe where the letters dropped out
- [ ] spot an apostrophe in the wrong place