

Contractions

A **contraction** is a word made by putting two words together. When words are joined in a contraction, an apostrophe is used to show where a letter or letters have been left out.

- Some contractions combine a pronoun and a verb: *I + will = I'll*; *they + will = they'll*; *she + is = she's*; *it + is = it's*; *they + have = they've*; *you + are = you're*.

- Some contractions combine a verb and *not*: *has + not = hasn't*; *had + not = hadn't*; *was + not = wasn't*; *did + not = didn't*; *could + not = couldn't*.

Contractions We've gone swimming every day, but we won't go tomorrow.

Directions Write the contraction in each sentence. Then write the words that make up the contraction.

1. Swimming was popular in ancient Greece, and it's still popular today.

it's; it is

2. Swimmers began competing in the 1896 Olympics, and they've competed ever since.

they've; they have

3. Women didn't compete in the Olympics until 1912.

didn't; did not

4. Wasn't Mark Spitz the winner of seven gold medals in 1972?

Wasn't; Was not

5. American swimmers couldn't beat Spitz's record in 2004.

couldn't; could not

Directions Write the contraction for the underlined words.

6. I see that you are reading about Natalie Coughlin, my favorite athlete.

you're

7. I had not heard of Janet Evans, who competed in 1988.

hadn't

8. I will tell you about Fanny Durack.

I'll