Contractions Worksheet: Form and Expand Word Pairs

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Form contractions for these word pairs: 'I am', 'she is', 'do not', 'we have'. Write each contraction once.

Answer: I'm, she's, don't, we've

Reason: I am omits a and replaces it with an apostrophe: I'm. She is omits i: she's. Do not omits o: don't. We have omits ha: we've. Each contraction is written as one unit with no internal space.

Check: Read each contraction aloud. Confirm the apostrophe is above the x-height zone and that no space appears inside the word. Compare to the word bank.

Task 2

Expand these contractions into two words: 'you're', 'isn't', 'they'll', 'wasn't'.

Answer: you are; is not; they will; was not

Reason: You're restores a: you are. Isn't restores o: is not. They'll restores wil: they will. Wasn't restores o: was not. Each expansion uses a normal space between the two words.

Check: Confirm the expanded pair means the same as the contraction. Check that the apostrophe has been removed and that a normal space separates the two words.

Task 3

Imagine a writer has placed the apostrophe in 'don't' so that it touches the baseline instead of sitting above the x-height zone. Rewrite 'don't' following the convention, and explain the correction in one sentence.

Answer: don't with the apostrophe raised above the x-height zone (above the midline), not touching the baseline. Correction: the apostrophe should sit above the x-height zone (above the midline), not on the baseline.

Reason: The convention defines the apostrophe as a small mark above the x-height zone. Touching the baseline makes it look like a letter or punctuation mark in the wrong position. Raising it keeps the contraction readable and consistent.

Check: Point to the apostrophe. Confirm it is above the x-height zone and separate from n and t. Read the word aloud to confirm it is still 'don't'.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Form a contraction from 'we would' and expand 'he'd'. Then write one sentence using each answer correctly.

Answer: we'd; he would (or he had, depending on context). Example sentences: We'd like to practice. He'd finished before noon.

Reason: We would omits woul and replaces it with an apostrophe: we'd. He'd can expand to 'he would' or 'he had'; both are valid, so the sentence context determines the expansion. The worksheet accepts either expansion if the sentence is grammatical.

Check: Check the contraction for no internal space and a clear apostrophe. For the expansion, read the sentence aloud to confirm the meaning matches the chosen expansion. Accept either 'he would' or 'he had' when the sentence is correct.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contraction formed correctly with the right base words and omitted letters.
- [ ] Apostrophe placed above the x-height zone and clearly separate from adjacent letters.
- [ ] No internal space inside a contraction.
- [ ] Expansion restores the correct letters and keeps the original meaning.
- [ ] Expansion uses a normal space between the two words.
- [ ] Handwriting is legible; print, cursive, or mixed styles are acceptable if the apostrophe is clear.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?