

Contractions and Negatives

A **contraction** is a shortened form of two words. An **apostrophe** is used to show where one or more letters have been left out. Some contractions are made by combining pronouns and verbs:

I + have = I've

you + are = you're

Other contractions are formed by joining a verb and *not*:

should + not = shouldn't

were + not = weren't

Won't and *can't* are formed in special ways:

will + not = won't

can + not = can't

Negatives are words that mean "no" or "not": *no, not, never, none, nothing*. Contractions with *n't* are negatives too. To make a negative statement, use only one negative word.

No: Don't never ask about his leg. There won't be none left.

Yes: Don't ever ask about his leg. There won't be any left.

Use positive words instead of the negative in a sentence with *not*:

Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
nobody	anybody, somebody	nothing	anything, something
no one	anyone, someone	nowhere	anywhere, somewhere
none	any, all, some	never	ever, always