

Words Are CATEGORICAL®



# What's a Contraction?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



## What's a Contraction?

**You'll** find the answer inside this book—**it's** brimming with contractions! Brian P. Cleary's playful rhymes and Brian Gable's humorous illustrations **don't** shy away from creatively clarifying the concept of contractions. For easy identification, **we've** printed the contractions in color. You **won't** want to miss the comical cats that reinforce each idea.

*I'm and Won't, They're and Don't: What's a Contraction?* turns traditional grammar lesson on end. Read this book aloud and share in the delight of the sense—and nonsense—of words.

I'm and Won't,  
They're and Don't



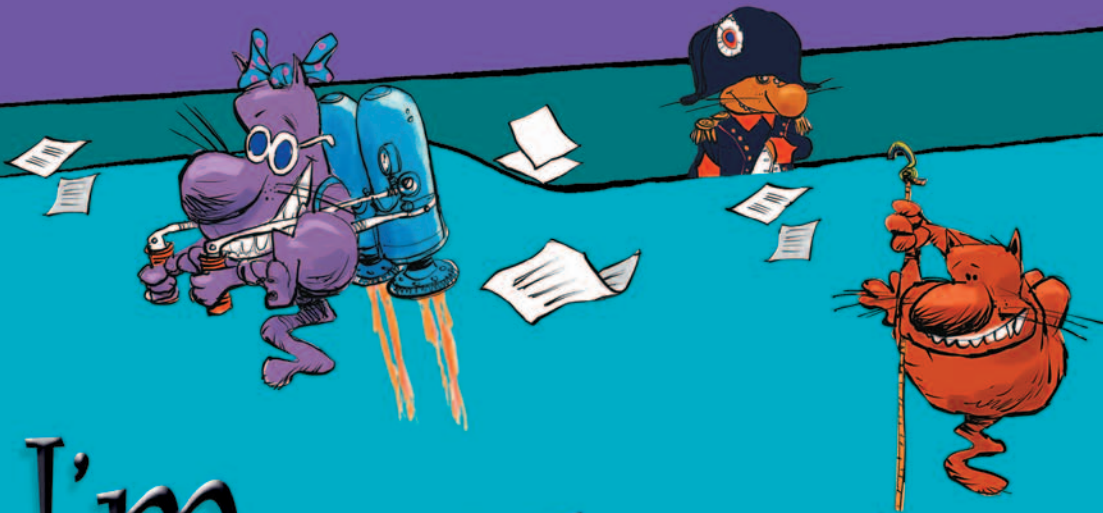
What's a Contraction?



To Tresa, Kelly, Clare, and Shannon  
—B.P.C.



**Contraction:**  
Two (or  
sometimes three)  
words combined into  
one word, using  
an apostrophe



# I'm and Won't, They're and Don't

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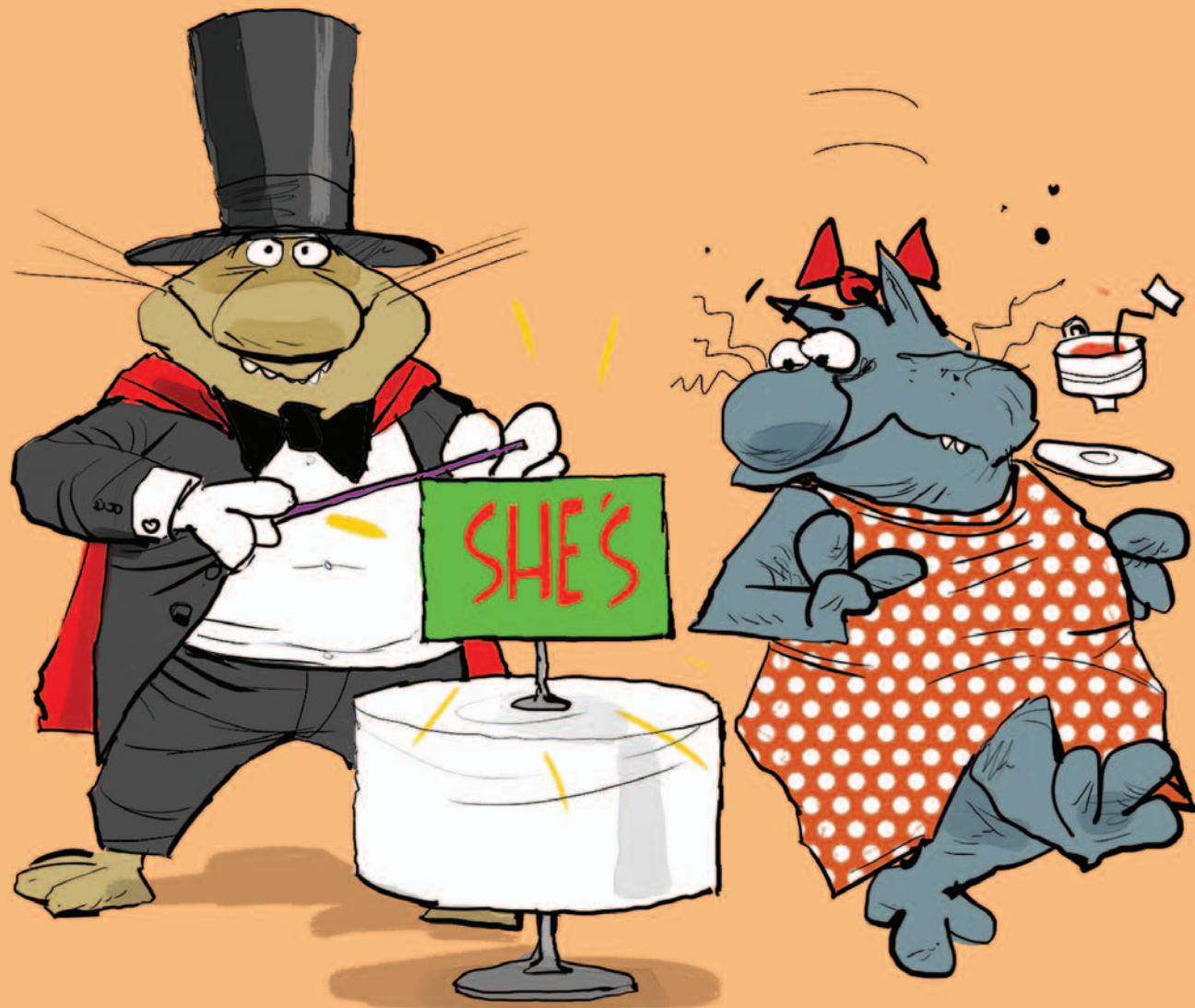
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# Contractions

take a couple words

or sometimes even three





and shrink them  
into only one,  
as in, "she's drinking tea."

*"she's" is the contraction,*



*and it shortens up "she is."*



It takes two words  
and makes them one.



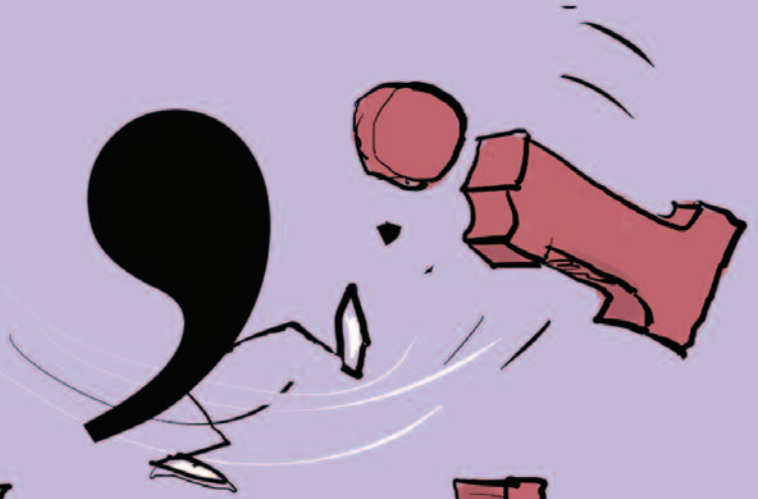
as in, "That's mine and his."

AS punctuation goes,  
contractions always  
feature these:



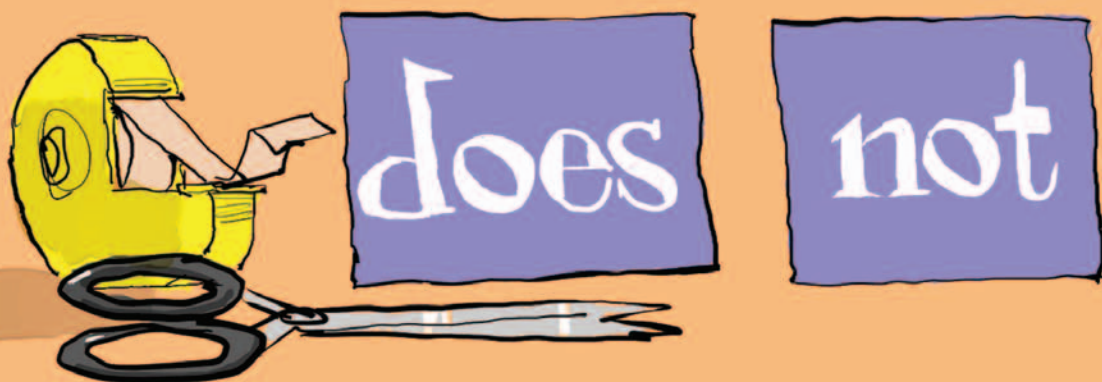
They take the place of letters,  
and *they're* called apostrophes.

it



s

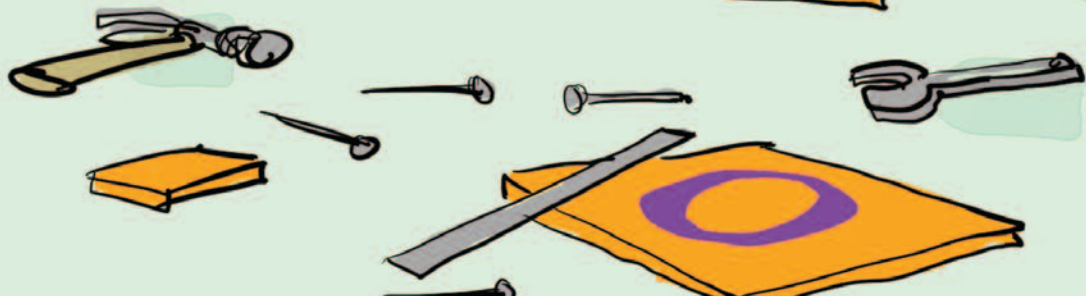
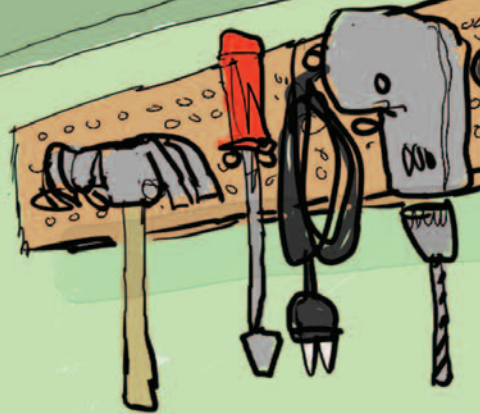
Take a phrase like "does not."



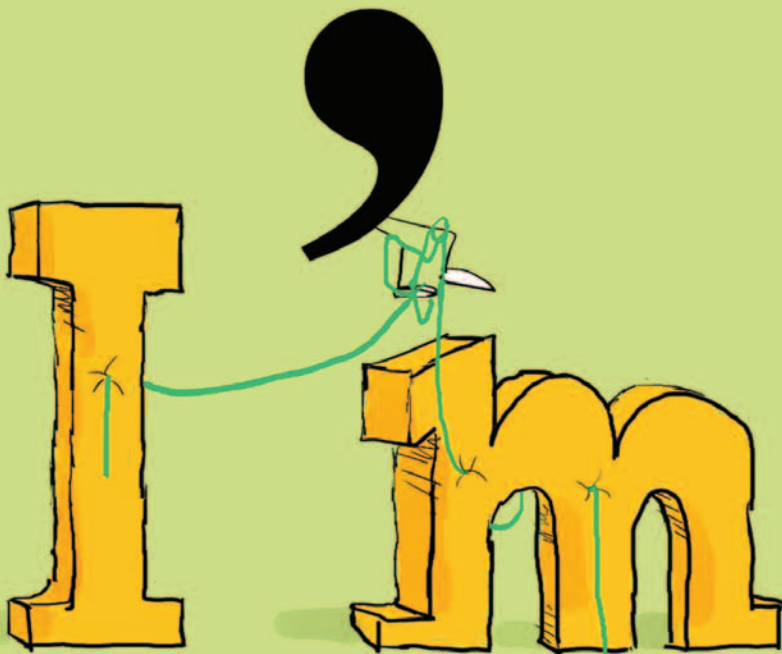
A contraction makes it  
"doesn't."



Try another: "Was not."  
You can shorten it to "Wasn't."



Apostrophes help link the words  
and replace at least one letter.



As in, "I'm very proud  
that I've helped make  
this lovely sweater."



oftentimes contractions  
join another word to "not."





Like "shouldn't it be colder now?"



and "can't I take your spot?"

"I don't think this shoe is mine."



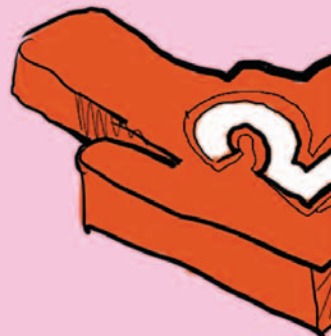
"Isn't it absurd?"



THEY'RE WE'LL  
SHE'S I'D  
CAN'T COULDN'T  
I'LL



All these turn a  
two-word phrase  
into one single word.



other times, contractions  
shorten "are" or "is" or "am."



AS in,

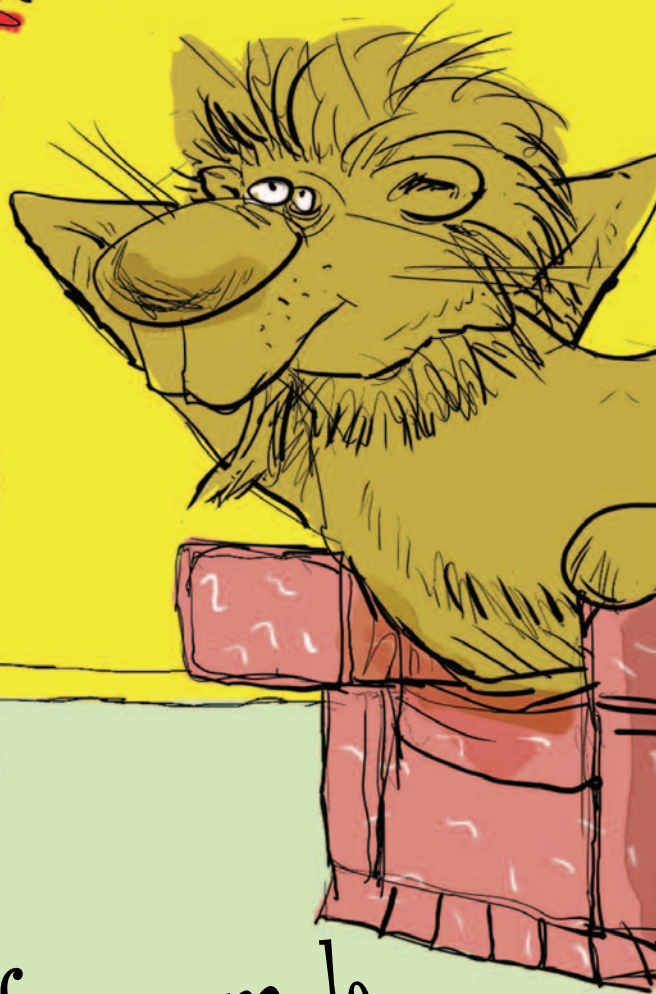
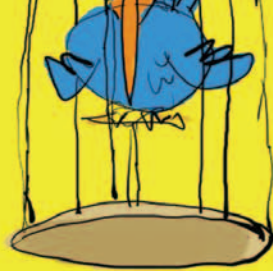
"I'm sure **you're** hungry,"

and "**He's** cooking up  
some ham."



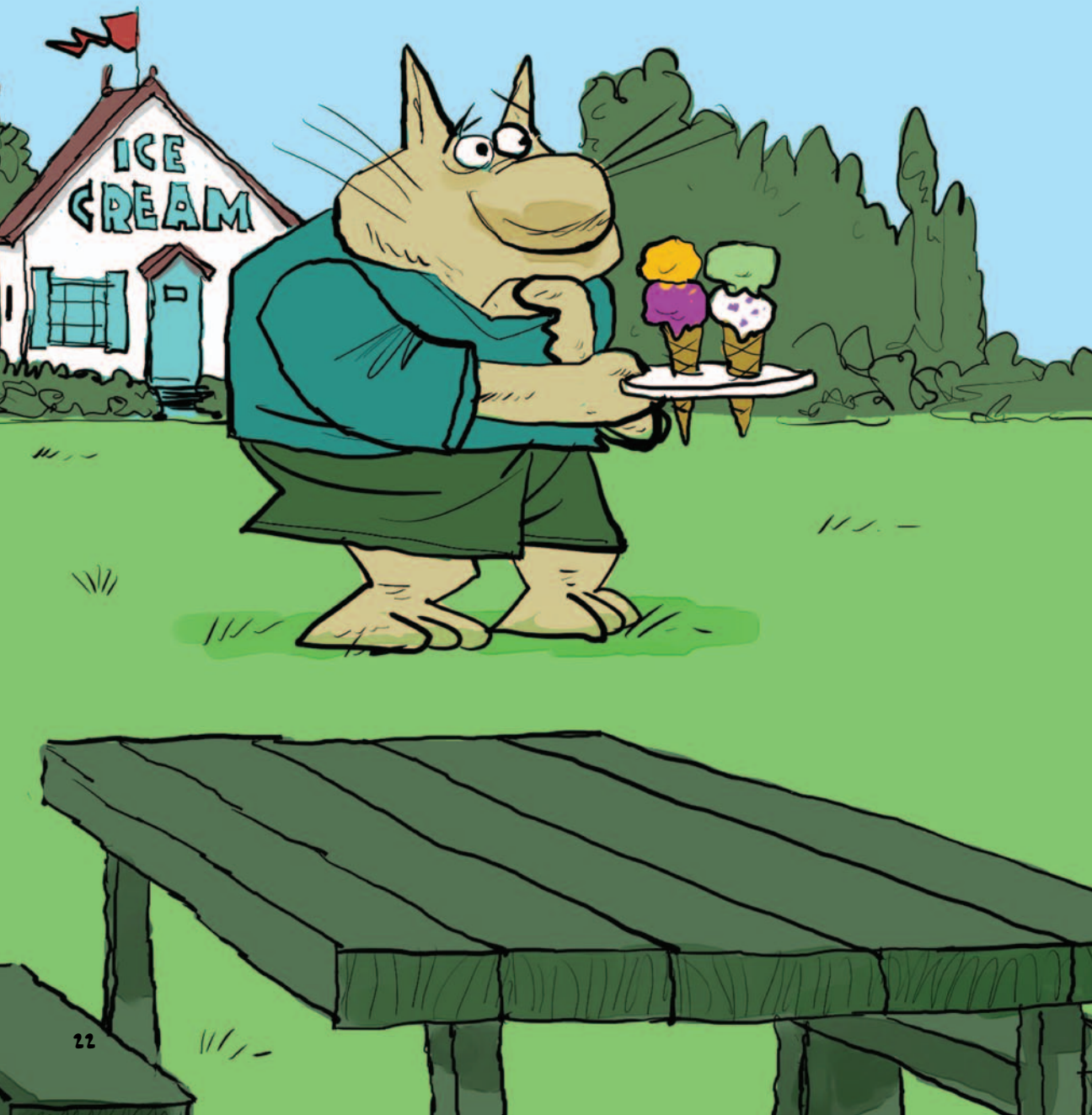
Now and then, contractions  
shorten not just two...





but three words, for example,  
"I'd've thought this was the zoo!"

“Would” when **it’s** contracted  
is reduced to just a “d”



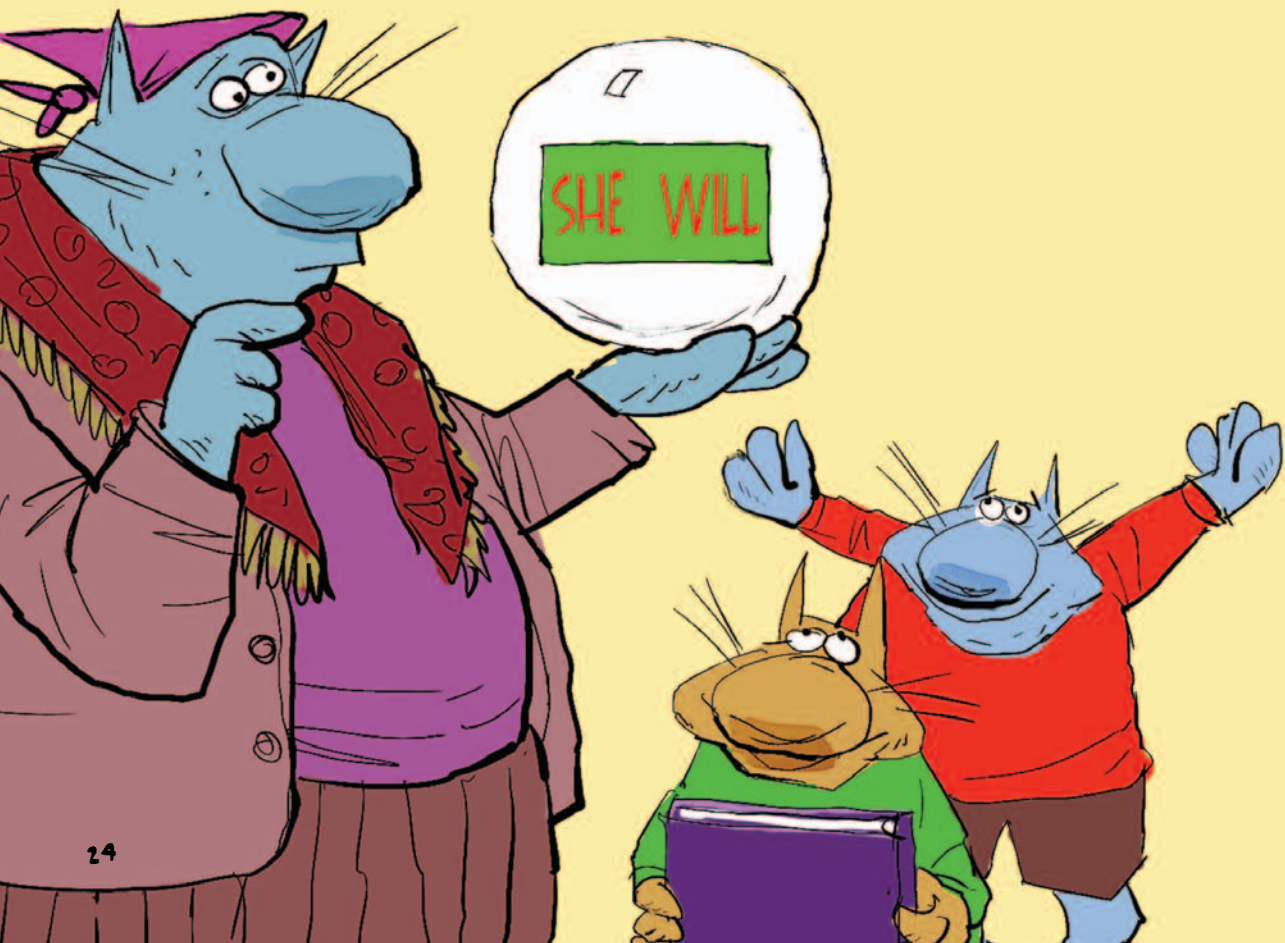


in words like "I'd" and "she'd"

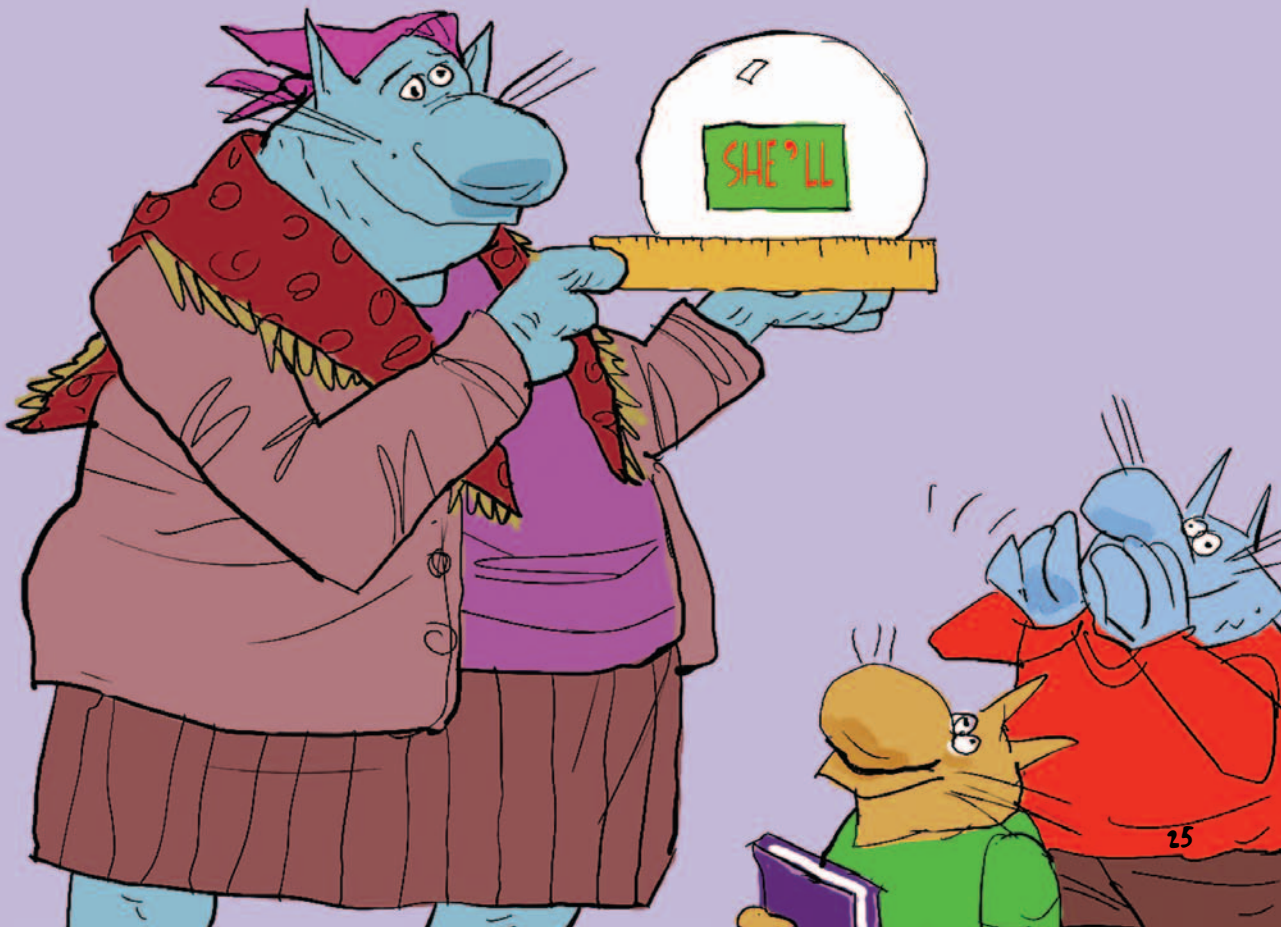


as well as "you'd"  
to name just three.

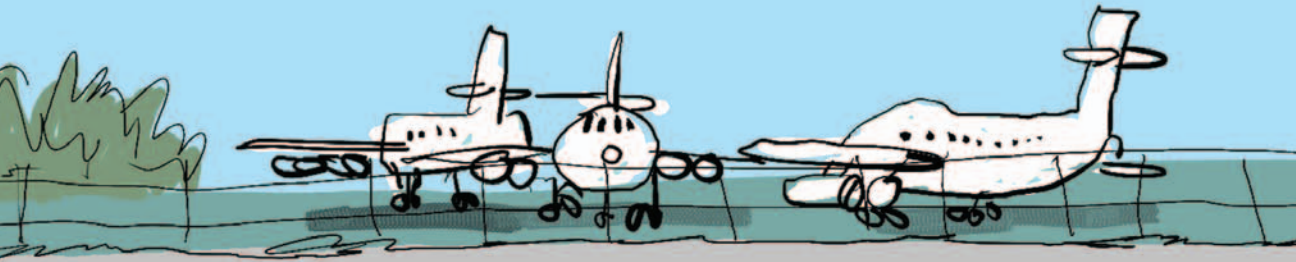
*"Will" can come in handy  
as a future-tense  
contraction.*



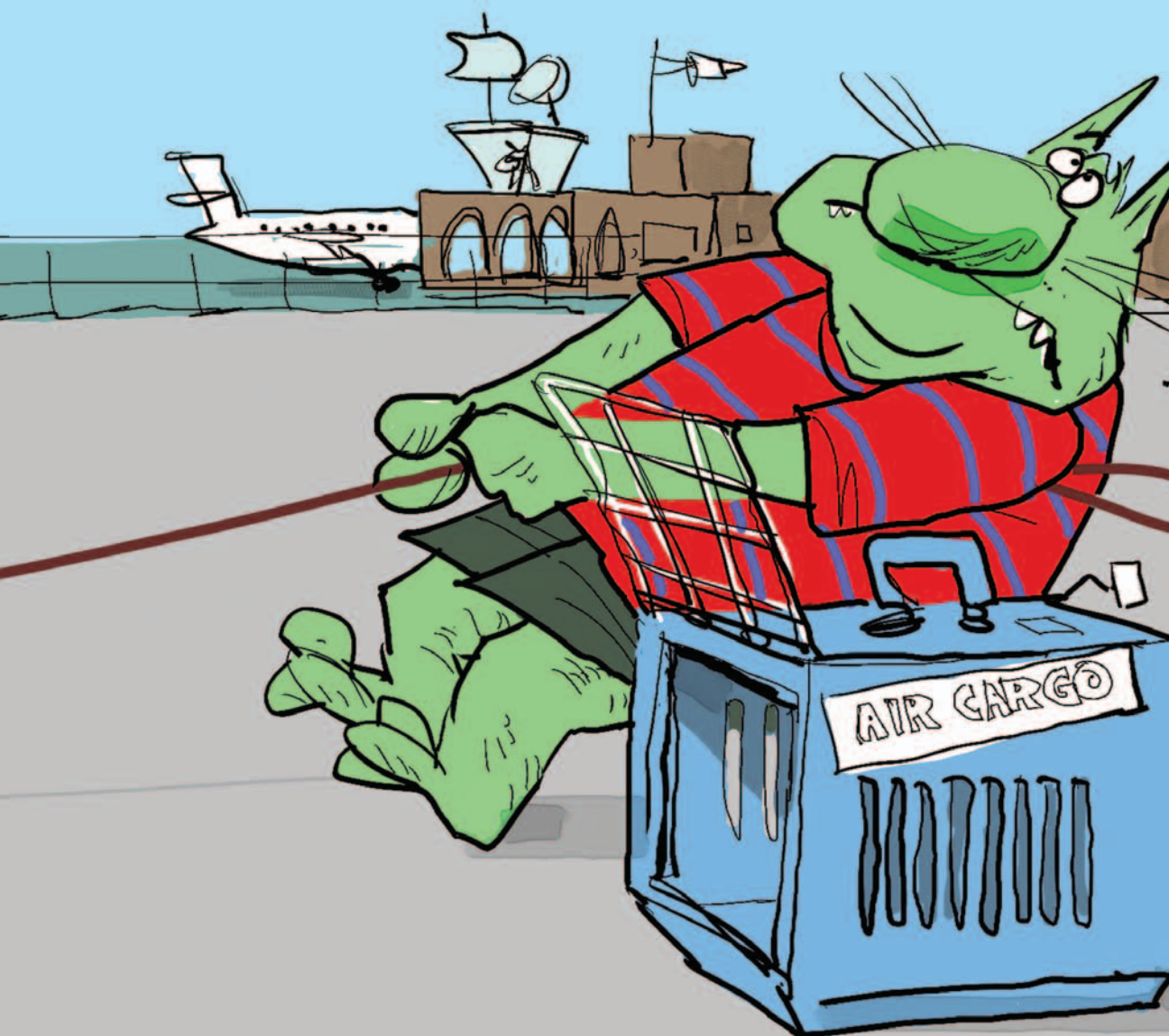
shrink "she will"  
right down to "she'll"—  
it's smaller by a fraction.



Sometimes **you'll** find  
"have" and "had"  
have been abbreviated.



Like here: "I've got a puppy,"  
and "I'd better get him crated."





**Aren't** contractions  
useful words?

In speech and writing, **don't**

have any fear  
in using them.



(I'm guessing  
that you won't!)

# So what's a contraction?





Do you know?





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

**BRIAN P. CLEARY** is the author of the best-selling **Words Are CATEgorical**® series as well as the **Math Is CATEgorical**®, **Food Is CATEgorical**™, **Adventures in Memory**™, and **Sounds Like Reading**® series. He has also written The Punctuation Station, The Laugh Stand: Adventures in Humor, and several other books. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

**BRIAN GABLE** is the illustrator of many **Words Are CATEgorical**® books and the **Math Is CATEgorical**® series. Mr. Gable also works as a political cartoonist for the Globe and Mail newspaper in Toronto, Canada.

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**Brian P. Cleary** is the author of the best-selling **Words Are CATegorical<sup>®</sup>** series as well as the **Math Is CATegorical<sup>®</sup>**, **Food Is CATegorical<sup>™</sup>**, **Adventures in Memory<sup>™</sup>**, and **Sounds Like Reading<sup>®</sup>** series. He has also written **The Punctuation Station**, **The Laugh Stand: Adventures in Humor**, and several other books. He lives in **Cleveland, Ohio**.

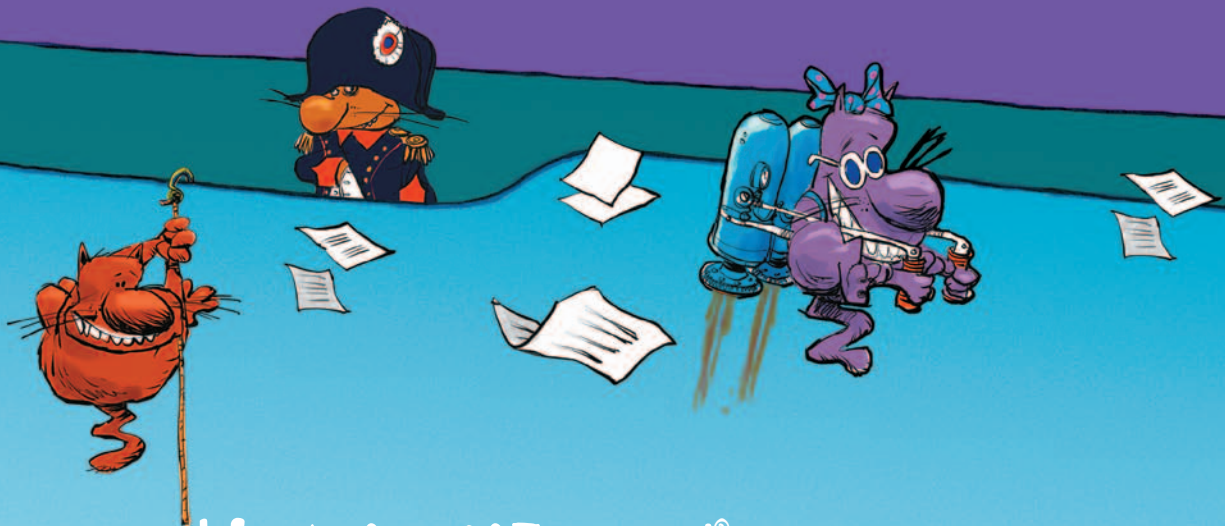


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*Jacket illustrations by Brian Gable*

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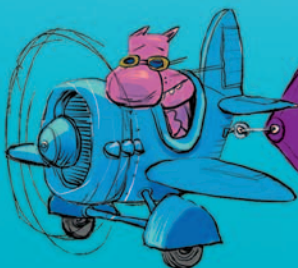
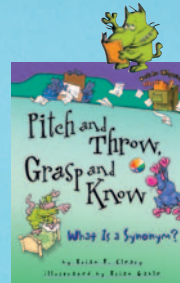
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