Give your students a chance to create contractions and play with macaroni with this fun-filled reading lesson. Early learners will have a blast using flash cards to identify ways word combinations.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will be able to identify and make different contractions.

**Materials and Preparation**

- Contraction word cards (Create these with index cards. For each set, use half-cards for words that can be changed into a contraction and a whole card for the contraction that they make.)
- Elbow macaroni
- Glue
- Sentence strips
- Pocket charts

**Key Terms:**

- contraction
- omit
- apostrophe
Lesson

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Explain to the students that a contraction is a shortened form of two words.
- Write the words "do not" on the board. Skip a space and explain to the students that you are going to change these two words into contractions.
- Tell them to always keep the first word. Write it.
- Now be sure they are watching as you show them how to change the second word to finish the contraction.
- Bring attention to the apostrophe to show that you omitted, or left out, a letter.
- Read the new word: don't.
- Make more contractions using is, not, will, are, and have.
- Point out that will not is the only time the first word will change when you change those words into contractions.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (10 minutes)

- Pass around the contraction cards. Keep two words that make a contraction, e.g. "she" and "is."
- Say to the students, "I have the words "she is." Who has the contraction for these words?
- When the student who has the word is identified, give them your word cards so they can place them together.
- Write on the board, "She's is a contraction for she is." Highlight the apostrophe.
- Continue in the same manner at least three more times.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (10 minutes)

- Give each student half a sentence strip and a piece of macaroni.
- Write two words that can be made into contractions on the board.
- Let them copy it down.
- Together, change the words into a contraction. Remind the students to keep the first word and change the second word.
- List the changes on the board where the students can see them: is becomes 's. not becomes n't, have becomes 've, are becomes 're, etc.
- Tell students to use their macaroni as apostrophes.

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Independent Working Time (10 minutes)

- Give the students another half piece of a sentence strip and a piece of macaroni.
- Write two more words on the board that can be changed into a contraction.
- Tell the students to use the list on the board and to change the words into contractions.

Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment**: Let these students make more contractions and use each in a sentence. Ask them to write them down.
- **Support**: Have struggling students match up different contraction word card pairs for extra practice.

Review

Assessment (10 minutes)

- Check students' sentence strips for accuracy.
- Give assistance to those who may need it.

Review and Closing (5 minutes)

- Let the students turn and talk to each other about what they learned.
- Encourage them to use words like contraction, omit, and apostrophe.