

Focus on Language

Word Shortcuts — Contractions

A **contraction** is a word shortcut. It is 2 words shortened to 1 word. An **apostrophe** (') shows that 1 or more letters have been left out of a word. Read these contractions and their long forms:

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| cannot | can't |
| I have | I've |
| she is | she's |
| they are | they're |
| we will | we'll |
| he will not | he won't |

Write a **contraction** to replace the **bold** words in each sentence.

1. This year **I am** studying dinosaurs in science.
2. **I have** talked to an expert at the museum. **She is** a scientist who studies dinosaurs.
3. She **cannot say** for sure why the dinosaurs died out. They probably **were not** able to adapt to a sudden change in the weather.
4. Dinosaurs **could not** find the plants that they had been eating.
5. **We are** sure of one thing — **they are** no longer living on earth.
6. **I do not** think people will become extinct like the dinosaurs. **We will** protect our environment.