



Punctuation: **Contractions**

We can shorten words by removing letters and inserting an apostrophe instead. These are called contractions. Contractions are often more informal and closer to the way we speak.

Can you write down the contractions of the following words? The first one has been done for you.

1. can not = can't
2. did not
3. he will
4. would not
5. they have
6. should not
7. you would
8. they are
9. will not
10. shall not

Now, can you rewrite this paragraph, inserting as many contractions as possible?

He could not believe his luck. He had told them they should not come down to the park, but they had not believed him. Now, they were stuck and they did not know what to do. You would have thought they could work it out for themselves, but they could not. "I will not help them," he thought.

Finally, write a paragraph about what you did this morning, using five contractions.



Punctuation: **Contractions** - Answers

Can you write down the contractions of the following words? The first one has been done for you.

1. can not = **can't**
2. did not = **didn't**
3. he will = **he'll**
4. would not = **wouldn't**
5. they have = **they've**
6. should not = **shouldn't**
7. you would = **you'd**
8. they are = **they're**
9. will not = **won't**
10. shall not = **shan't**

He **couldn't** believe his luck. **He'd** told them they **shouldn't** come down to the park, but they **hadn't** believed him. Now, they were stuck and they **didn't** know what to do. You **would've** thought they could work it out for themselves, but they **couldn't**. "I **won't** help them," he thought.