


















4 list of contractions

Strong and weak forms ► (315) are given where appropriate.

Contraction	Pronunciation	Meaning
<i>I'm</i>	/aɪm/ 	I am
<i>I've</i>	/aɪv/ 	I have
<i>I'll</i>	/aɪl/ 	I will
<i>I'd</i>	/aɪd/ 	I had/would
<i>you're</i>	/jʊə(r); jɔː(r); jə(r)/ 	you are
<i>you've</i>	/juːv; jəv/ 	you have
<i>you'll</i>	/juːl; jəl/ 	you will
<i>you'd</i>	/juːd; jəd/ 	you had/ would
<i>he's</i>	/hiːz; hɪz/ 	he is/has
<i>he'll</i>	/hiːl; hɪl/ 	he will
<i>he'd</i>	/hiːd; hɪd/ 	he had/ would
<i>she's</i>	/ʃiːz; ʃɪz/ 	she is/has
<i>she'll</i>	/ʃiːl; ʃɪl/ 	she will
<i>she'd</i>	/ʃiːd; ʃɪd/ 	she had/ would
<i>it's</i>	/ɪts/ 	it is/has
<i>it'd</i> (uncommon)	/ɪtəd/ 	it had/would

we're























/wiə(r)/ 











we are

we've

/wi:v; wiv/ 


we have

we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
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we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are
we're	/wiə(r)/ 	we are



<i>isn't</i>	/ˈɪznt/ 	is not
<i>mightn't</i>	/ˈmaɪnt/ 	might not
<i>mustn't</i>	/ˈmʌsnt/ 	must not
<i>needn't</i>	/ˈni:dnt/ 	need not
<i>oughtn't</i>	/ˈɔ:tnt/ 	ought not
<i>shan't</i>	/ʃɑ:nt/ 	shall not
<i>shouldn't</i>	/ˈʃʊdnt/ 	should not
<i>usedn't</i>	/ˈju:snt/ 	used not
<i>wasn't</i>	/ˈwɒznt/ 	was not
<i>weren't</i>	/wɜ:nt/ 	were not
<i>won't</i>	/wəʊnt/ 	will not
<i>wouldn't</i>	/ˈwʊdnt/ 	would not

Notes


1 Do not confuse *it's* (= *it is/has*) and *its* (possessive).

2 *Am not* is only normally contracted in questions to *aren't* (/ɑ:nt/ ).

I'm late, aren't I?

3 Note the difference in pronunciation of *can't* in British English (/kɑ:nt/ ) and American English (/kænt/ ).

4 *Daren't, mightn't, oughtn't, shan't* and *usedn't* are rare, especially in American English; *needn't* is rare in American English.

5 In non-standard English, *ain't* (pronounced /eɪnt/ ) is used as a contraction of *am not*, *are not*, *is not*, *have not* and *has not*.

I ain't going to tell him.

Don't talk to me like that – you ain't my boss.

'It's raining.' *'No it ain't.'*

I ain't got no more cigarettes.

James ain't been here for days.

6 For the contraction *let's*, ► 225.

7 *May not* is not normally contracted: *mayn't* is very rare.