

# They're here!

## Contractions

A



Listen and look at the spellings of the weak forms (see Units 37–40).

These weak forms written with an apostrophe are called contractions.

full / strong form	contraction / weak form
is	's
is not	isn't



Contractions show the way we normally speak. In the sentence *It's raining again!*, the most important word is *raining*; the word *is* is unstressed and we use the contraction *it's*. But in the sentence *Yes, it is!*, the word *is* is the most important word, and we use the full form, not the contraction.

B



Listen and look at the spellings of the weak forms.

full / strong form	contraction / weak form
are	're

In the sentence *They're here!*, the most important word is *here*, and *They're* is unstressed and contracted to /ðeə/ or /ðə/. But in the sentence *They are*, the most important word is *are*, so we use the full form, not the contraction.



**Note:** We use the contraction 's for *is* or *has*.  
It's raining. 's = *is*  
Where's he gone? 's = *has*



Here are some other common contractions.

full / strong form	contraction / weak form
cannot	can't
have	've
had / would	'd

full / strong form	contraction / weak form
I am	I'm
let us	let's
will	'll

We use these contractions in many types of informal writing, as well as in speech.

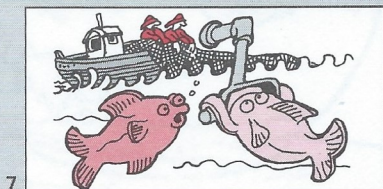


Important for listening and reading

In some types of texts, like cartoons and pop songs, you can find other contractions, like these. Listen.

- One of these days I'm gonna leave this town.
- I just wanna have a good time.
- Nice place, this, innit?
- A: Why dontcha wanna come with us? B: 'Cos I hate shopping!
- Rock 'n' roll will never die.
- Tell 'im to come now!
- A: Can you see 'em? B: Not yet.

going to	gonna	and	'n'
want to	wanna	them	'em
isn't it?	innit	him	'im
don't you?	dontcha	do you	d'you
because	'cos		





## Exercises

41.1

C72

Listen and underline what you hear – the contraction or the full form.

- 1 A: Why haven't you done the shopping?  
B: I've / I have done the shopping. It's / It is on the kitchen table.
- 2 A: The weather's / weather is better than last year, isn't it?  
B: It certainly 's / is.
- 3 A: Right then, I'm / I am going. Are you coming with us?  
B: No, I'll / I will see you later.
- 4 A: What's / What is the time?  
B: It's / It is twenty to seven.
- 5 A: They aren't ready yet.  
B: We're / We are ready!
- 6 A: I'd / I would love to go somewhere warm for a change.  
B: I'd / I would, too!
- 7 A: I'm / I am afraid they haven't / have not arrived yet.  
B: They've / They have. They're / They are here now!
- 8 A: Let's / Let us go.  
B: I don't think the concert's / concert has finished yet, has it?  
A: It's / It has, actually.

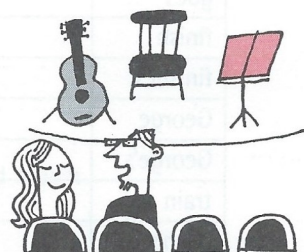
Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.



3



5



8

41.2

C73

Listen, and write the sentences you hear in normal spelling.

## EXAMPLE

You hear: 'Are you gonna be with us at the weekend?' and you write: 'Are you going to be with us at the weekend?'

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

Check with the Key.