

## Contractions

- Explain to students that when we say some words, we shorten them by pushing the words together. Examples include “don’t” – do not, or “y’all” – you all. When we write these words, apostrophes show where letters are missing.
- Have students work in pairs or small groups to brainstorm contractions they know already.
- Have students find contractions in the text, then work out what they mean.
- Ask students to think, pair, share about why the author has used contractions instead of writing out all the words.
- Explain that contractions are informal, and sound more like speaking. This can make the text sound more familiar and real. Texts that are formal, such as The Declaration of Independence, are unlikely to use contractions.

*Notes:*

For more support on Contractions, see page 35 of the *Pathways Teacher’s Guide*.