

STEP 2
HOW

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Language Mini Lessons

Grades 4-9 (Second Edition)

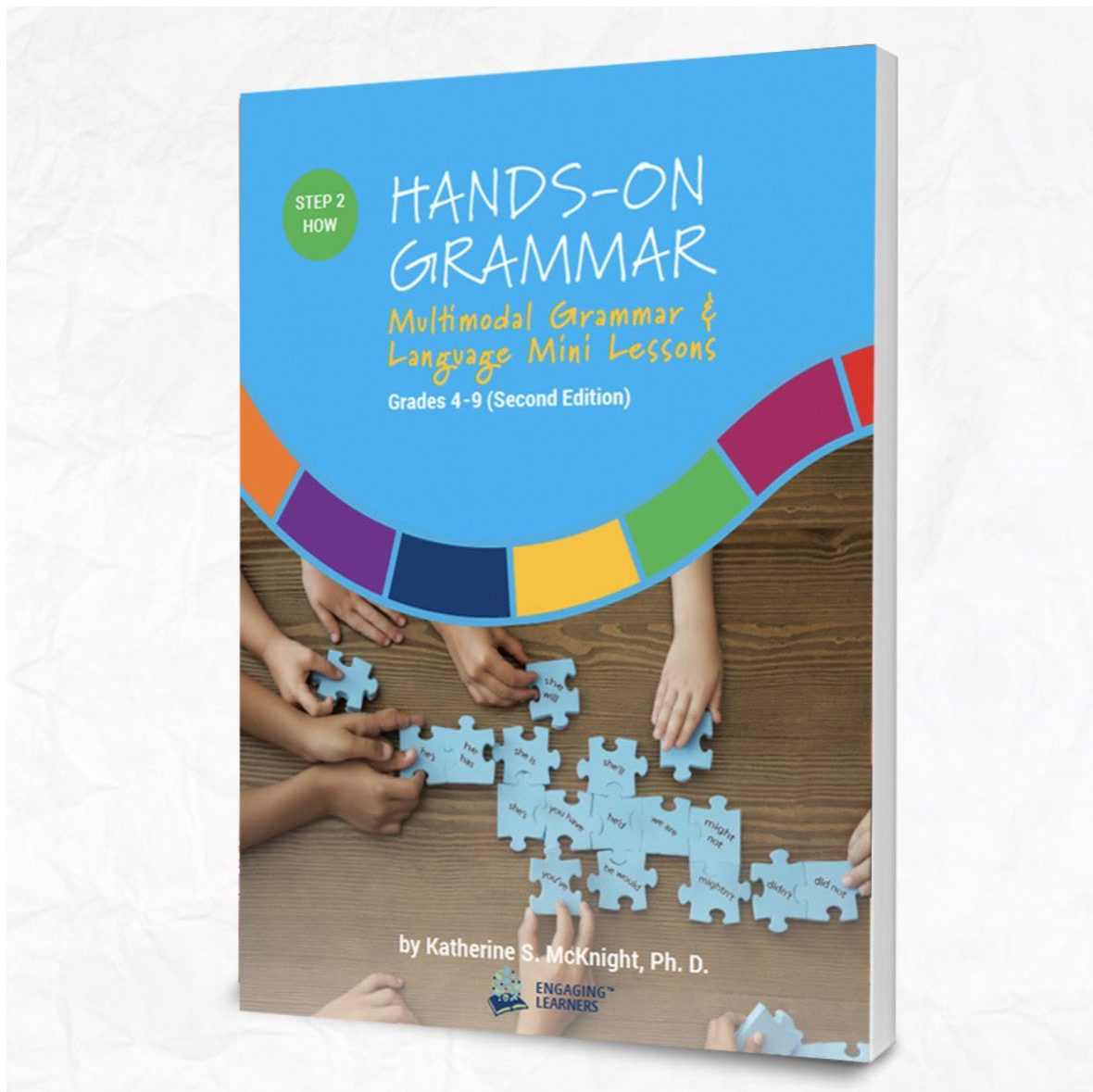
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Action Contractions

Overview and Tips for Classroom Implementation



Students, especially English Language Learners (ELL), often do not understand that the apostrophe mark in a contraction like “can’t” or “wouldn’t” actually signals to the reader that there are letters missing. In this activity the students pair puzzle pieces to create contractions. I often taught this mini lesson at the beginning of class.

Lesson Instructions

First, photocopy the Puzzle Piece Templates (Figure 1.3). Write a contraction on one puzzle piece and write the words that make up the contraction on a matching piece. Refer to the table (Figure 1.1) as a resource. Option: instead of using the template, use index cards or recycle a cardboard jigsaw puzzle by writing on the back.

Next, distribute one puzzle piece per student. Once the students have a puzzle piece, instruct the them to find the matching puzzle piece.

Then, once the students are correctly paired, have them create a single line or a circle so that they can see all of the contractions. Discuss the different contractions with the students.

Skills Covered in this Lesson

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing.

Teacher Tip!

When I conduct this mini lesson in the classroom, I use it as an opening activity. When students enter the classroom at the beginning of the class period, I hand them a puzzle piece. While I take attendance, the students find their contraction pair and line up. It is helpful to create the puzzle pieces on matching color paper. It allows the students to do a quick check to ensure that their contraction is correct.

Word + Word = Contraction

is + not = isn't	did + not = didn't	you + would = you'd
are + not = aren't	can + not = can't	you + have = you've
was + not = wasn't	could + not = couldn't	he + is = he's
were + not = weren't	should + not = shouldn't	he + will = he'll
have + not = haven't	might + not = mightn't	he + would = he'd
has + not = hasn't	must + not = mustn't	he + has = he's
had + not = hadn't	I + am = I'm	she + is = she's
will + not = won't	I + will = I'll	she + will = she'll
would + not = wouldn't	I + had = I'd	she + would = she'd
do + not = don't	you + are = you're	she + has = she's
does + not = doesn't	you + will = you'll	she + had = she'd

Figure 1.1



Figure 1.2

Puzzle Piece Templates

