

# Lesson 23: Contractions with not

## LEARN

A **contraction** is made by joining two words together. An apostrophe (') takes the place of any letters that are left out. Some contractions are formed by joining a verb with the word *not*.

- are + not = **aren't**  
Some common beliefs about health **aren't** true.
- will + not = **won't**  
Carrots **won't** improve your eyesight.



Notice that the spelling of the verb *will* changes when it is combined with *not* to form the contraction *won't*.

Contractions with not			
is not	<b>isn't</b>	do not	<b>don't</b>
are not	<b>aren't</b>	does not	<b>doesn't</b>
was not	<b>wasn't</b>	did not	<b>didn't</b>
were not	<b>weren't</b>	cannot	<b>can't</b>
has not	<b>hasn't</b>	could not	<b>couldn't</b>
have not	<b>haven't</b>	should not	<b>shouldn't</b>
had not	<b>hadn't</b>	would not	<b>wouldn't</b>
will not	<b>won't</b>		

## PRACTICE

**A** Write the contraction for each pair of words.

1. was not \_\_\_\_\_ **wasn't**

2. cannot \_\_\_\_\_ **can't**

3. does not \_\_\_\_\_ **doesn't**

4. is not \_\_\_\_\_ **isn't**

5. are not \_\_\_\_\_ **aren't**

6. were not \_\_\_\_\_ **weren't**



7. did not \_\_\_\_\_ **didn't**

8. had not \_\_\_\_\_ **hadn't**

9. could not \_\_\_\_\_ **couldn't**

10. will not \_\_\_\_\_ **won't**

**B** Write a contraction for the word or words in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. Eating lots of carrots \_\_\_\_\_ **won't** turn your skin orange.  
(will not)

2. Worrying \_\_\_\_\_ **doesn't** turn a person's hair gray.  
(does not)

3. Too much chocolate \_\_\_\_\_ **isn't** the cause of pimples.  
(is not)

4. Foods \_\_\_\_\_ **don't** cause all skin problems. (do not)

5. Colds \_\_\_\_\_ **aren't** caused by bad weather. (are not)

6. You \_\_\_\_\_ **can't** get the flu unless you are exposed to a virus.  
(cannot)

7. Staying in bed \_\_\_\_\_ **won't** help you get over a cold faster.  
(will not)

8. Standing on your head \_\_\_\_\_ **hasn't** ever cured the hiccups.  
(has not)

9. Touching a frog \_\_\_\_\_ **doesn't** cause warts. (does not)

10. Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ **haven't** found any evidence for this idea.  
(have not)

11. Everyone wishes you \_\_\_\_\_ **wouldn't** crack your knuckles.  
(would not)

12. We \_\_\_\_\_ **shouldn't** believe every health and diet tip we hear!  
(should not)



**C** Dana and Ian wrote this fact sheet listing other untrue ideas about diet and health. In it they made eight mistakes with contractions. Use the proofreading marks in the box to correct the errors.

**Remember!** When you join two words in a contraction, an apostrophe takes the place of any letters that are left out.

## The Truth About Diet and Health

- Drinking coffee won't stunt your growth. Even so, caffeine <sup>shouldn't</sup> ~~shouldn't~~ be part of a young person's diet.

- Eating carrots <sup>doesn't</sup> ~~doesn't~~ improve your eyesight.

However the vitamin A in carrots does help eyes stay healthy.

- Going outside with wet hair <sup>won't</sup> ~~won't~~ make you catch a cold. Colds <sup>aren't</sup> ~~aren't~~ caused by wet hair or windy weather. They are caused by viruses.

- Watching TV <sup>doesn't</sup> ~~doesn't~~ damage your eyes.

However people who spend too much time watching TV probably <sup>don't</sup> ~~don't~~ get enough exercise.

- Reading in dim light <sup>isn't</sup> ~~isn't~~ a cause of bad eyesight.

Good lighting, however, makes reading much easier!

- Crossing your eyes <sup>can't</sup> ~~can't~~ make you permanently cross-eyed. But why do it? It's hard to see that way!

### Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- ⊙ Period
- ✓ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter



Did you correct eight mistakes with contractions?



# WRITE



**D** Read each sentence. Then rewrite it using one or more contractions formed with **not**. Make any other changes that are necessary for the new sentence to make sense. The first two are done for you.

**Answers will vary. Sample answers are given.**

1. If you do exercise regularly, you will get in shape. \_\_\_\_\_

*If you don't exercise regularly, you won't get in shape.*

2. Your scrape has healed because you have taken care of it. \_\_\_\_\_

*Your scrape hasn't healed because you haven't taken care of it.*

3. My muscles have gotten stronger because I have exercised. \_\_\_\_\_

**My muscles haven't gotten stronger because I haven't exercised.**

4. If you do get eight hours of sleep, you will feel rested tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you don't get eight hours of sleep, you won't feel rested tomorrow.**

5. If you have eaten breakfast, you will have the energy you need. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you haven't eaten breakfast, you won't have the energy you need.**

6. Sue did get enough vitamins because she did eat fresh fruit and vegetables. \_\_\_\_\_

**Sue didn't get enough vitamins because she didn't eat fresh fruit and vegetables.**

7. If you had acted recklessly, you would have gotten hurt. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you hadn't acted recklessly, you wouldn't have gotten hurt.**

8. If you get caught in the rain, you will need an umbrella. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you don't get caught in the rain, you won't need an umbrella.**

## Proofreading Checklist



Did you use one or more contractions with **not** in each sentence you wrote?

Did you use an apostrophe in place of letters that are left out?