

Appendix 4

Short forms (**he's** / **I'd** / **don't**, etc.)

4.1 In spoken English we usually pronounce "**I am**" as one word. The short form (**I'm**) is a way of writing this:

I am	→	I'm
it is	→	it's
they have	→	they've
		etc.

- I'm** feeling tired this morning.
- "Do you like this jacket?" "Yes, **it's** nice."
- They've sold their car.

When we write short forms, we use ' (an apostrophe):

I~~am~~ → I'm he~~is~~ → he's you~~have~~ → you've she~~will~~ → she'll

4.2 We use these forms with **I/he/she**, etc.:

am	→	'm	I'm		he's	she's	it's		
is	→	's							
are	→	're							
have	→	've	I've						
has	→	's		he's	she's	it's			
had	→	'd	I'd	he'd	she'd		we'd	you'd	they'd
will	→	'll	I'll	he'll	she'll		we'll	you'll	they'll
would	→	'd	I'd	he'd	she'd		we'd	you'd	they'd

- I've got some new shoes.
- We'll probably go out tonight.
- It's 10:00. You're late again.

's = **is** or **has**:

- She's going out tonight. (she's going = she **is** going)
- She's gone out. (she's gone = she **has** gone)

'd = **would** or **had**:

- A: What would you like to eat?
- B: I'd like a salad, please. (I'd like = I **would** like)
- I told the police that I'd lost my passport. (I'd lost = I **had** lost)

Do not use '**m/s/d**, etc. at the end of a sentence (see Unit 38):

- "Are you tired?" "Yes, I **am**." (not Yes, I'm.)
- She isn't tired, but he **is**. (not he's)

4.3

We use short forms with **I/you/he/she**, etc., but you can use short forms (especially 's) with other words, too:

- Who's** your favorite singer? (= who **is**)
- What's** the time? (= what **is**)
- There's** a big tree in the yard. (= there **is**)
- My sister's** working in London. (= my sister **is** working)
- Eric's** gone out. (= Eric **has** gone out)
- What color's** your car? (= What color **is** your car?)

4.4 Negative short forms (see Unit 41):

isn't	(= is not)	don't	(= do not)	can't	(= cannot)
aren't	(= are not)	doesn't	(= does not)	couldn't	(= could not)
wasn't	(= was not)	didn't	(= did not)	won't	(= will not)
weren't	(= were not)			wouldn't	(= would not)
hasn't	(= has not)			shouldn't	(= should not)
haven't	(= have not)			mustn't	(= must not)
hadn't	(= had not)				

- We went to her house, but she **wasn't** home.
- "Where's David?" "I **don't** know. I **haven't** seen him."
- You work all the time. You **shouldn't** work so hard.
- I **won't** be here tomorrow. (= I will not)

4.5

's (apostrophe + s)

's can mean different things:

(1) 's = **is** or **has** (see section 4.2 of this appendix)

- It's raining. (= It **is** raining)
- It's been raining all day! (= It **has** been raining)

(2) let's = let **us** (see Unit 34 and Unit 51)

- It's a beautiful day. **Let's** go outside. (= Let **us** go outside.)

(3) Kate's camera = her camera

my brother's car = his car

the manager's office = his/her office, etc.

(see Unit 62)

Compare:

- Kate's** camera was very expensive. (**Kate's** camera = **her** camera)
- Kate's** a very good photographer. (**Kate's** = **Kate is**)
- Kate's** got a new camera. (**Kate's** got = **Kate has** got)