

Contractions

Grammar Cop

and the Case of the Sick Bookworm

Neither Mr. Worm nor Dr. Fish understands the use of contractions. Can you help them?

Directions: A contraction is formed by putting together two words with certain letters left out. For each of the red, numbered word pairs, write the correct contraction in the blanks on the left. We did the first one for you.

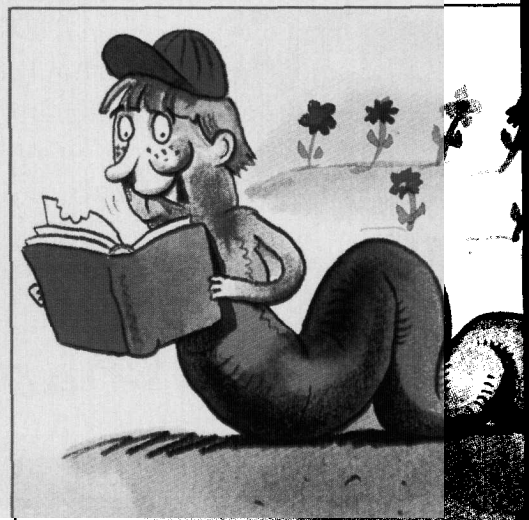


Dear Dr. Fish,

I hope you ¹will be able to help me. I ²am the bookworm who lives in the New York Public Library. Ever since gulping down *Meet the Backstreet Boys* last week, I ³have been suffering from a mysterious stomach illness. Normally, I can munch through Shakespeare's complete plays and still have room for a chapter from *Treasure Island*. Now, I can barely make it through *Romeo and Juliet*! Also, I ⁴had been nibbling on a chapter from *Little House on the Prairie* when suddenly I ⁵could not stop belching up adjectives. It happened again with *The Hobbit*. Not only is this problem embarrassing, but if the librarian hears me, she ⁶will be furious. Help me! I ⁷cannot eat my favorite books!

Dear Mr. Worm,

First, you ⁸are eating too many big words. You must immediately begin a strict diet of three-letter words. I prescribe Dr. Seuss's *Hop on Pop*. After that, try a few pages of *Goodnight Moon*, but avoid all words with more than two syllables! As for your mysterious stomach illness, well, I ⁹do not think it is very mysterious at all! The answer is obvious: no more *Meet the Backstreet Boys*. It clearly ¹¹does not agree with you. Stick to this diet for a few weeks and you ¹²will be back to your luscious Shakespeare in no time.



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