

Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional
Focus Based on
the Words in
the Book

Word Work

Giraffes Can't Dance
By: Giles Andreae
Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: M

Instructional Focus:
Contractions

Background:
Contractions are words that are formed when two words are combined to form a new word. In order to form a contraction, one word is dropped and replaced with an "am" combine, they form the contraction. The "am" is replaced with an apostrophe.

Examples:

not	are
aren't	they're
can't	we're
couldn't	you're
doesn't	what're

Materials and Preparation:

- A Copy of *Giraffes Can't Dance*
- A Copy of the Not from
- A Copy of the Is Family
- A Copy of the Not Family
- A Copy of the Is Family
- A Copy of the Game C
- Contractions Practice P
- Chart Paper
- Colored Markers
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Optional - Word Detective

Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading

Contractions in the Text

- Tell students that the book they'll be reading today has some contractions.
- Show students **page 24** of *Giraffes Can't Dance*. Tell the class to listen carefully and look at the words as you read. Invite them to put their finger on their nose when they hear a contraction.
- Read. They shouted, "It's a miracle! We must be in a dream. Gerald's the best dancer that we've ever, ever seen!"
- After reading ask students to identify the contraction (It's). Some students may notice the other two contractions on the page (Gerald's, we've). Acknowledge those contractions, noting that they are indeed contractions yet they do not fall into the families that we are focusing on in today's lesson.
- Tell students you are going to read the book once from beginning to end. Challenge the students to listen carefully for any contractions.
- Read *Giraffes Can't Dance*.

List of words in the text that are examples of Contractions:

- Can't
- You're
- They're
- It's
- I'm
- We've
- He'd
- Who'd

Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice

Interactive Exploration

- Provide each student with the **Text Message Mania** page.
- Read the directions while the students silently follow along.
- Read the example that is provided.
- Direct students to independently work on correcting the messages on the rest of the page.
- As students are working, walk around, observe and provide support as needed.
- After 5 minutes, go over the answers with the students. Take this time to address any wrong answers.

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

List of words in the book that
match the instructional focus

Interactive Activity

Text Message Mania
Interactive Activity

Directions: Practice rewriting the following text messages by changing the **bold words** into contractions.

Original Message: **I can not** find you! **Where is** the baseball field?
Corrected Message: _____

Original Message: **Who is** winning the game? I hope it **is not** the Dodgers.
Corrected Message: _____

Write your own message below. Have a friend rewrite the message on the back of this paper.

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Independent
Practice Page

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Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice

Practice Page

- Give each student a copy of the **Contractions Practice Page**.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Go over the example with the class.
- Tell students to complete the rest of the page practice page.
- Monitor students as they work.

Step 5: Reconnect and Reflect on Word Work

Group Discussion

- Bring the students back together.
- Ask students to explain what they learned about words based on the work they completed.
- Invite students to turn and talk with a partner about their word work.
- Invite 2-3 students to share what they learned with the group.

Step 6: Extend Word Work (optional)

Extension Activity

- Ask students to be on the lookout for **contractions** in their own reading. Tell them to write their words on a sticky note and add them to the anchor chart (review the added sticky notes with the class later in the day or before moving on to the next word work lesson).
- Alternatively, students can keep track of the words using the **Word Detective worksheet**.

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Contractions!
Word Work Practice Page

Directions:

Left Side: The contraction has been given to you. Write the two words that make the contraction in the boxes.

Right Side: The two words have been given to you. Write the contraction for the two words in the last box.

can't	can	not
here's		
hasn't		
isn't		
that's		
who's		
doesn't		
there's		

had	not	hadn't
where	is	
would	not	
are	not	
she	is	
it	is	
were	not	
should	not	

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Extension Activity

Word Detective: Contractions
Extension Activity

Directions:

Be a word detective!

Be on the lookout for **contractions** while you read. Write the word that you find along with the title of the book where you found the word, the page, and the sentence with the word or phrase.

Word	Book Title	Page	Sentence

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