

# Word Work Lesson Plan and Activities

Instructional Focus Based on the Words in the Book

**Word Work**  
**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus**  
 By: Mo Willems  
 Grade Level: 2 / Guided Reading Level: J

**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 apostrophe. For example, "I am" combine, they form "I am". "am" is replaced with an apostrophe and "m".

**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 *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*
- Sorting Cards (1 set per student)
- Match Up Student Directions
- Contractions Word Work
- Optional - Word Detective Worksheet
- Optional - 3 Colors of Ink

**Step 1: Introduce the Focus of Word Work**

**Introduce Contractions**

- Draw the students' attention to the chart paper.
- Explain that contractions are words that are formed when two words are joined together to make a new word.
- Write the word "don't" on the chart paper. You may want to use a different colored marker to write the apostrophe.
- Explain that when the words "do" and "not" combine, they form the contraction "don't." In this word the letter "o" in "not" is replaced with an apostrophe.
- Draw the students' attention to the table of contractions on the chart paper.
- Ask the students to think of other contractions. Allow students to turn and talk with a partner about the words they came up with or share with the class. Discuss any misconceptions if students share words that do not follow the consonant blend pattern. Record words that do follow the pattern on the chart paper.

**Sample Anchor Chart**

Word	Base Word 1	Base Word 2	Contraction
aren't	are	not	aren't
can't	can	not	can't
couldn't	could	not	couldn't
doesn't	do	not	doesn't
isn't	is	not	isn't
isn't	has	not	hasn't
isn't	had	not	hasn't
isn't	he	will	he'll
isn't	it	is	it's

**Step 2: Connect Word Work to Reading**

**Extend Engagement**

Use the list of contractions found in the text to prepare reading engagement cards.

- Divide the number of students into thirds.
- Write a contraction on a third of the index cards.
- Write the base words that can be combined to form each contraction on the remaining cards.
- Distribute the cards to your students.
- Ask students to find their base word and contraction partners.
- Once all contractions have been paired, challenge students to use their contraction in a sentence.

**Examples of Contractions Found in the Text:**

- I'm
- I've
- do not
- he would
- I will
- come on
- what's
- it's
- let us
- I'm
- I've
- don't
- he'd
- I'll
- c'mon
- what's
- it's
- let's

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Step by Step Lesson Plan

List of words in the book that match the instructional focus

Optional Activity to Extend Engagement

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**Step 3: Guided Word Work Practice**

**Interactive Exploration**

- Provide each student with a set of sorting cards (allow students to cut apart the cards or provide them with pre-cut cards).
- Explain that the words on their cards are the base words used to form the contractions in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. Review each of the words aloud with the group, discussing any unknown words.
- Model how to play **Match Up**.
- Divide students into pairs and allow them to play **Match Up** using the attached resources for directions.
- Monitor students and assess students' understanding while playing **Match Up**.

**Step 4: Independent Word Work Practice**

**Practice Page**

- Give each student a copy of **Contractions Word Work**.
- Read the directions with the class.
- Tell the students to complete the practice page.
- Monitor students while 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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Interactive Activities

Independent Practice Page

**Match Up Student Directions**

**Materials:**  
 Sorting Cards

**Players:**  
 2 or more

**Directions:**

1. Write your name or initials on each of your sorting cards.
2. Combine all of the players sorting cards to make one deck of cards.
3. Place each card face down in front of all players.
4. The first player turns over two cards so that the cards are face up. If the cards match, the player keeps the cards, writes the word on the score sheet, and takes another turn. If the cards do not match, the player turns the cards back face down.
5. The second player turns over two cards so that the cards are face up. If the cards match, the player keeps the cards, writes the word on the score sheet, and takes another turn. If the cards do not match, the player turns the cards back over so that they are face down.
6. Continue taking turns. Whoever has the most matches at the end of the game wins.

**Tip:**  
 Place your sorting cards in even rows. Even rows make it easier to remember where the cards are.

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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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Word Work Extension Activity | @BookPagez.com

**Contractions Word Work Practice Page**

**Directions:**  
 Fill in the contraction for each sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ leaving soon. ( They are )
2. \_\_\_\_\_ going out. ( We are )
3. \_\_\_\_\_ be here. ( She will )
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ like to eat. ( does not )
5. \_\_\_\_\_ come tonight. ( They will )
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and play with us. ( Come on )
7. \_\_\_\_\_ visit my grandmother today. ( I will )
8. \_\_\_\_\_ informed her. ( I have )
9. \_\_\_\_\_ your mother? ( Who is )
10. \_\_\_\_\_ looking great. ( You are )
11. \_\_\_\_\_ a rainy day. ( It is )
12. \_\_\_\_\_ going to see your dog. ( I am )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Independent Word Work Practice | @BookPagez.com