

Contraction Action Songs, Poems and Rhymes



Developed by Cherry Carl

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It's Raining! It's Pouring!

(Traditional Tune)

It's raining, it's pouring.

The old man is snoring.

He went to bed,

and covered his head,

and didn't get up 'til the morning!



Little Bo Peep

(Traditional Tune)

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep,

and can't tell where to find them.

Leave them alone and they'll come home

wagging their tails behind them!



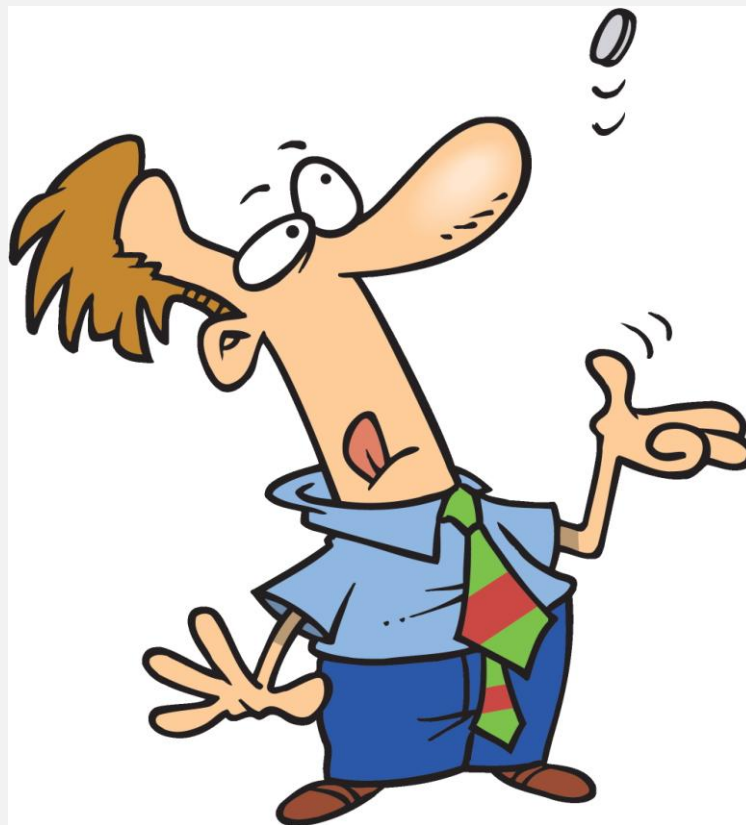
I've Got Sixpence!

(Traditional Tune)

I've got sixpence,

jolly, jolly sixpence.

I've got sixpence to last me all my life.



Polly, Put the Kettle On

(Traditional Tune)

Polly, put the kettle on,

Polly, put the kettle on,

Polly, put the kettle on,

We'll all have tea.

Sukey, take it off again,

Sukey, take it off again,

Sukey, take it off again.

They've all gone away.



What Can the Matter Be?

(Traditional Tune)

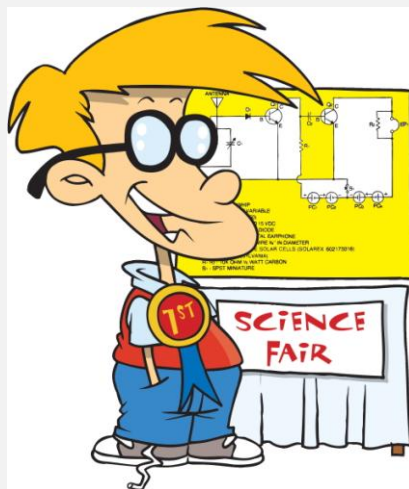
Oh, dear, what can the matter be?

Oh, dear, what can the matter be?

Oh, dear, what can the matter be?

Johnny's so long at the fair.

He promised he'd buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,
he promised he'd buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,
he promised he'd buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,
to tie up my bonny brown hair.



Contraction Action

(Tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?)

Can you do contraction action
to your satisfaction?

Can you do contraction action
with apostrophe?

You bump out some letters
'cuz small words are better!
So try contraction action
with apostrophe!



Contraction Action

(Tune: The Hokey Pokey)

You pop some letters out

to put apostrophes in!

You pop some letters out!

That's the way you must begin.

To do contraction action is as easy as can be!

Come on and dance with me! Oh Yeah!



"Pop!" Goes the Letter!

(Tune: Pop Goes the Weasel)

Cherry Carl

All around the line of two words,
apostrophe reads letters.

The children think it's all in fun,
but we know better!

Apostrophes can make a new word
by popping out a letter.

That's the way apostrophes work.

"Pop!" goes the letter!

This idea was generously contributed by Angie Bogan, a second grade teacher at Rossville Elementary School in Rossville, IN. One student gets to be the apostrophe and other students are the letters. They sing the song while the apostrophe skips around the line before popping out the appropriate letters and taking their place to form a contraction. Repeat so that other children have the opportunity to be the apostrophe.

Variation: I think that this activity will also be a great way to practice spelling the two words that make a contraction. If you hand out letter cards to students, ask them to assemble themselves into words such as they are, is not, etc. and come to the front of the classroom for this activity.

I adapted and added other lyrics to Angie's original idea. You can listen to and sing along with the tune at the link below.

<http://www.gardenofsong.com/popweasel.html>

I've Been Working on the Railroad!

(Traditional Tune)

I've been workin' on the railroad,
all the live long day.

I've been workin' on the railroad,
just to pass the time away.

Don't you hear the whistle blowing?

Rise up so early in the morn.

Don't you hear the captain shouting,

"Dinah, blow your horn?"

