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Children often misspell contracted words because they do not understand what the apostrophe is doing to the word. This results in children writing 'dident' and 'where' instead of 'didn't' and 'we're'.

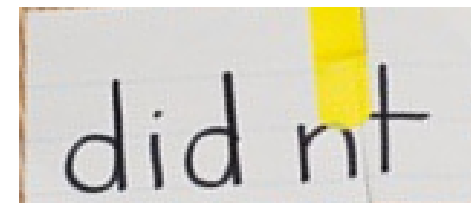
This activity has been designed to show children how we omit letters and replace the omitted letters with an apostrophe when creating contractions:

1. Provide children with the first set of contractions and ask them to perform surgery on the words by omitting the letter (cutting it out of the word).
2. Using masking tape, tape the word back together at the top of the paper.
3. The place where the masking tape holds the paper together is where our apostrophe should go. I compare this to stitches holding wounds together after surgery.

TOP TIP:

If your pupils aren't aware of what the new spelling should be, provide the answers on the right and then they can use this as a scaffold to perform surgery on the original words.

e.g. This example uses plasters, but masking tape is a cheaper alternative.



could not	would not	we are
you are	you will	he is
might not	might have	she is
could have	I will	it is
should have	she will	they will

couldn't	wouldn't	we're
you're	you'll	he's
mightn't	might've	she's
could've	I'll	it's
should've	she'll	they'll