

The Bat and the Weasel – Contraction Lesson

Refer to the Bat and the Weasel Story by Dr. Mike Lockett, www.mikelockett.com © 2010

Dr. Lockett used several contractions in his retelling of Aesop’s story of The Bat and the Weasel. Contractions are shortened forms of words. They are often used in spoken English. They are used less often in formal written English. You will see that many stories, notes to friends, emails and other less formal text use contractions.

Three contractions appeared in the story.

I am	I + am	I’m	“I’m not a mouse,” said the bat.
you are	you + are	you’re	“You’re a mouse,” said the weasel
do not	do + not	don’t	“Weasel’s don’t like to eat birds,” said the bat.

Dr. Lockett could have used other contractions including the following one

could have could + have could’ve The Bat could’ve fought to get away.

Words

letter

In English

not used Contraction Example

I am	I + am	a	I’m	I’m a lucky person.
he is	he + is	i	he’s	He’s ten years old.
she is	she + is	i	she’s	She’s wearing jeans today.
we are	we + are	a	we’re	We’re going shopping.
they are	they + are	a	they’re	They’re reading books together.
I have	I + have	ha	I’ve	I’ve eaten already.
You have	you + have	ha	you’re	You’ve been very polite.
He has	he + has	ha	he’s	He’s finished his work.
She has	she + has	ha	she’s	She’s been quiet all day.
It has	it + has	ha	it’s	It’s been a long day.
We have	we + have	ha	we’ve	We’ve been friends for a long time.
They have	they + have	ha	they’ve	They’ve sold their house.

There are more contractions in the English language. Can you find a few?

Original Words	Contraction	Sample Sentence
_____ + _____	_____	_____
_____ + _____	_____	_____
_____ + _____	_____	_____
_____ + _____	_____	_____