**Apostrophes to replace missing letters**

Sometimes we can join two words together to make one new word. The new word is called a **contraction**.

We use contractions all the time. They make our speaking and writing fluent and informal.

When two words are joined together the new word does not contain all of the letters from each word; some of them are lost. We use an apostrophe to represent the missing letters; it’s called using an apostrophe for **omission**.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| can | not | can’t |
| he | is | he’s |
| who | is | who’s |
| do | not | don’t |
| it | is | it’s |

***What letters are missing?***

**Going Through the Old Photos**

Who’s that?

That’s your Auntie Mabel

and that’s me

under the table.

Who’s that?

That’s Uncle Billy.

Who’s that?

Me being silly.

Who’s that

Licking a lolly?

I’m not sure

but I think it’s Polly.

Who’s that

behind the tree?

I don’t know,

I can’t see.

Could be you.

Could be me.

Who’s that?

Baby Joe.

Who’s that?

I don’t know.

Who’s that standing

On his head?

Turn it round.

It’s Uncle Ted

*By Michael Rosen*