

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

CLASS: _____

SCORE: _____

LESSON 70 • LITERATURE, CONTRACTIONS & DOUBLING

Wheeler's Elementary Speller — Page 40

“Memorize the lines from Lucy Larcom's **‘The Brown Thrush’**, and learn to spell every word carefully. Find all five contractions where the apostrophe replaces missing letters, and notice why consonant doubling occurs in **sitting** and **running**.”

CONCEPT

1 Memory Lyric & Contraction Detective — Read the verse and write each contraction's target form:

*“There’s a merry brown thrush **sitting** up in the tree,
He’s **singing** to me! He’s **singing** to me!
And what does he say, little girl, little boy,
‘Oh, the world’s **running** over with joy!
Don’t you hear? don’t you see? / Hush! look! in my tree / I’m as happy as happy can be!”*

— Lucy Larcom (1824–1893)

There's

omits: i

Full: There is

He's

omits: i

Full: He is

world's

omits: i

Full: world is

Don't

omits: o

Full: Do not

I'm

omits: a

Full: I am

2 Consonant Doubling Discovery (The 1-1-1 Rule) — Study base words and add suffix -ing:

sit → sitting

Double tt

1-syllable, 1 short vowel, 1 consonant. Double t before -ing:

run → running

Double nn

1-syllable, 1 short vowel, 1 consonant. Double n before -ing:

sing → singing

Single g

Ends in TWO consonants (-ng). Do NOT double the final letter:

3 Sentence Composition — Use contractions and participles in complete, original sentences:

Sentence 1 (Use *sitting* and *There's*):

Sentence 2 (Use *running* or *singing* with *I'm* or *He's*):

GRAMMAR & ORTHOGRAPHY RULES TO REMEMBER:

1. **Contractions in Poetry:** An apostrophe (') replaces omitted letters (*world's* = *world is*) to keep rhythm and meter smooth in verse.

2. **The 1-1-1 Doubling Rule:** When a 1-syllable word has 1 short vowel and ends in 1 consonant (*sit*, *run*), double the consonant before -ing (*sitting*, *running*).

3. **Two Final Consonants:** When a base word already ends in two consonants like *sing* (-ng), the short vowel is safe; never double the g (*singing*).

LESSON 70 TEACHER GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

LITERATURE & CONTRACTIONS

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TARGET WORD	MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE	ELISION / DOUBLING LAW	PEDAGOGICAL FOCUS & NOTES
There's	There is (demonstrative + copula)	Omits vowel i (/ɪ/)	There's — voiced final /z/, apostrophe replaces i.
He's	He is (pronoun + copula)	Omits vowel i (/ɪ/)	He's — long vowel /i:/, voiced final /z/.
world's	world is (noun + copula)	Omits vowel i in poetry	world's — contextual contraction ("world [is] running over").
Don't	Do not (auxiliary + negative)	Omits o in not; vowel shifts	Don't — vowel shifts from /u:/ in do to /oʊ/.
I'm	I am (pronoun + copula)	Omits letter a	I'm — capital I preserved, apostrophe precedes m.
sitting / running	sit + ing / run + ing	1-1-1 Doubling Rule (CVC + vowel suffix)	tt, nn — doubled consonants protect short vowels /ɪ/ and /ʌ/.
singing	sing + ing	Ends in 2 consonants (-ng)	single g — already ends in 2 consonants; no doubling needed.

COMPLETE ANSWER KEY & SOLUTIONS

WHEELER'S PAGE 40 EXERCISES

EX. 1: 5 POETRY CONTRACTIONS SOLUTIONS

1. There is → **There's** (omits i)

2. He is → **He's** (omits i)

3. world is → **world's** (omits i)

4. Do not → **Don't** (omits o)

5. I am → **I'm** (omits a)

EX. 2: DOUBLING RULE SOLUTIONS

• sit (1 syll, short /ɪ/, 1 cons) → **sitting** (double t)

• run (1 syll, short /ʌ/, 1 cons) → **running** (double n)

• sing (ends in -ng) → **singing** (do not double g)

EX. 3: EXEMPLARY STUDENT SENTENCES

• Sentence 1: "**There's** a little brown thrush **sitting** upon the garden fence."

• Sentence 2: "**I'm** watching the deer **running** through the sunny meadow."

• Alternative: "**He's** **singing** a joyful morning song in the elm tree."

SOCRATIC GUIDING PROMPTS & PEDAGOGICAL INSIGHTS

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

• **Why do we double the 't' in 'sitting'?** Ask: "What sound does 'sit' have? Short /ɪ/. If we wrote 'siting' with one t, what would it look like? It would look like site-ing with a long /aɪ/. The double consonant protects the short vowel."

• **Why don't we double the 'g' in 'singing'?** Guide: "Look at the end of 'sing'. How many consonants do you see? Two (n and g)! Two consonants already protect the vowel, so no doubling is needed."

• **Contraction in 'world's':** Clarify for students: "In the poem, 'world's running over' means 'the world is running over'. The apostrophe stands for the missing letter 'i', not possession!"

DICTATION & ORAL APPLICATION SENTENCES (READ SLOWLY AT NORMAL SPEAKING PACE):

1. "**There's** a merry bird **sitting** upon the willow bough."

2. "**He's** **singing** a sweet song to the little boy."

3. "The happy children are **running** over the green lawn."

4. "**Don't** you hear the thrush? **I'm** as happy as can be!"