

Lesson 9

Initial-Letter Contractions, More Short-Form Words

9.1 In General [XIV.45]

Like the contraction for *into*, the contractions about to be studied are all two-cell configurations. Initial-letter contractions are formed by preceding the initial letter or initial contraction of the word by dot 5, dots 4-5, or dots 4-5-6. So, for instance, the letter *d* standing alone is the word *do*, but when *d* is immediately preceded by dot 5 the word becomes *day*—which can be used for the whole word *day* or as part of the word *yesterday*.

<u>Dot 5</u>	<u>Dots 4-5</u>	<u>Dots 4-5-6</u>
-----	-----	cannot ⠠⠠⠠
day ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
ever ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
father ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
here ⠠⠠⠠	-----	had ⠠⠠⠠
know ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
lord ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
mother ⠠⠠⠠	-----	many ⠠⠠⠠
name ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
one ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
part ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
question ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
right ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
some ⠠⠠⠠	-----	spirit ⠠⠠⠠
time ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
under ⠠⠠⠠	upon ⠠⠠⠠	-----
work ⠠⠠⠠	word ⠠⠠⠠	world ⠠⠠⠠
young ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
character ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
through ⠠⠠⠠	those ⠠⠠⠠	-----
where ⠠⠠⠠	whose ⠠⠠⠠	-----
ought ⠠⠠⠠	-----	-----
there ⠠⠠⠠	these ⠠⠠⠠	their ⠠⠠⠠

9.2b Ought. The contraction for *ought* is used whether the word is pronounced *ôt* as in *bought*, or *out* as in *doughty*. It is also used in *drought* whether pronounced *drou*t or *drou*th. However, the contraction should not be used in *Houghton* when the letter combination is pronounced like a long *o*, as in *Houghton Mifflin* or *Houghton, Michigan*.

9.2c One. In most cases the contraction for *one* is used when *o* and *n* are in the same syllable, even though the combination does not have the sound of *one*. Thus, the contraction is used in words like *gone*, *phone*, *honest*, *money*, and *monetary*.

The *one* contraction is not used when *n* begins a new syllable. Consequently, it is not used in words like *pho/net/ic*, *pi/o/neer*, *colo/nel*, *cor/o/net*, or *a/nem/o/ne*. And, as with all contractions, it cannot be used when part of the letters of the contraction fall into the base word and part into a suffix, as in *commoner*, *commonest*, *baronet*, and *luncheonette*.

9.2d Some. The contraction for *some* is used only where the letters it represents retain their original sound *and forms a complete syllable in the base word*. For example, this contraction is used in *handsome*, *handsomer*, and *handsomest*, because it retains the sound of *some* and it also constitutes a complete syllable in the base word *handsome*. The contraction for *some* cannot be used in words like *blossomed* and *ransomed*, because the syllable *some* does not appear in the base words *blossom* and *ransom*. In the word *som/er/sault*, the contraction for *some* is not used because the syllable division comes between the *m* and the *e*, and therefore, *some* is not a complete syllable in the base word.

9.2e Part. Unless other rules prohibit, the contraction for *part* is used whether it retains the original sound or not, as in *particular*, *Spartan*, and *partial*. Like all contractions, initial-letter contractions cannot be used if they would overlap a prefix and a base/root word. Therefore, the contraction for *part* cannot be used in words where *par* is a prefix, as in *partake*, *partook*, and *parterre*.

Drill 19

Practice by brailleing the following words and sentences. In the word section, leave three spaces between words and do not divide words between lines. In the numbered section, divide words as usual.

ransom ransomed blossom blossomed handsome handsomer lonesome
lonesomest party partook partial parterre common commoner commonest
know knowledge acknowledge ought brought drought Houghton
honest gone honey alone abalone phonetics pioneer

1. Great Scott! You ought to know you cannot remain here forever without work or money.
2. Quick! Write the name and address on the letter because I'm late.
3. We haven't paid them yet because there can be no question of our right to insist upon the work being done promptly under the terms of the contract.
4. We were rather surprised to learn that many of our neighborhood boys had taken part in the street riots and that some had been named as instigators.

Drill 20

Practice by brailleing the following words and sentences. In the word section, leave three spaces between words and do not divide words between lines. In the numbered section, divide words as usual.

stone stoned stoning phone phoned coherent sphere atmosphere hemisphere
heretic heresy adhered adhere under thunder launder name named enamel
Germany fright right-handed Brighton Mortimer centimeter Hades hadji

1. Beverly comforted her small brother by saying, "Don't be dispirited. Mother said in her letter that she and Father will take us fishing one day soon."
2. "Upon my word! How can you ever forget the words of 'The Lord's Prayer'?"
Grandmother scolded young Gaylord.
3. According to our teacher, everyone ought to take some time each day for reading because to read is to know.
4. We hope that the party and the braille book of world maps will be a big surprise for Grandfather, whose birthday we will celebrate at two o'clock next Friday.
5. Ever since he came into money, he thought he'd be treated like a king every day wherever he went.
6. The characteristics of the adult are inherent in the chromosomes of the embryo.
7. Through the untimely death of the doughty captain the entire ship was plunged into an atmosphere of gloom.
8. The professor reluctantly acknowledges that perhaps those students who cannot make a good grade need more time to complete their theses, but questions their right to protest.
9. Wordsworth referred to the skylark as the "Ethereal Minstrel, pilgrim of the sky."
10. Eight-year-old Thaddeus began his Mother's Day poem with: "Where'er I wander, where'er I roam, I sit there and ponder on Mother and home."
11. Daniel Boone worked hard to erect a fort at Boonesboro.
12. He is the handsomest little boy in the class and therefore he is always teased and chased by the little girls.
13. The housemother admonished the girls and told them severely that she was not about to serve dessert until the finnan haddie had been eaten.
14. His feverish dreams were haunted by these shadowy figures of children from out of his past.
15. To children the arrival of Santa Claus is pure delight.

EXERCISE

Prepare the following exercise for submission to the instructor.

LESSON 9

1. Yesterday, at eight o'clock, Mortimer started to work on his first part-time job for his father-in-law.
2. The name of Lord Nelson, who defeated the French fleet at Trafalgar, is revered by the British people.
3. Some of the questions in the questionnaire had to be answered "yes" or "no."
4. To say that wherever he went he was under the close scrutiny of the police is not quite right.
5. The youngsters are planning a big surprise for their father for Father's Day.
6. Though lonesome and frightened, the young lad was none the worse for the night spent in the woods.
7. "One has to spend according to one's income—you cannot go on forever spending more money than you earn," said Aunt Hedda, always giving advice.
8. Here and there the sun peeped through the clouds, creating little shadows.
9. I don't know whether or not I want to go to Germany, as I don't understand a word of the language.
10. "How many guests do you expect at the party?" asked the spirited young man.
11. One of the outstanding characters in the play is a typical man of the world who reads braille.
12. "These are the times that try men's souls," wrote Tom Paine.
13. Those whose houses are made of glass ought not to throw stones.
14. Many good fairy tales start with the words "Once upon a time."
15. Rebecca's letter said that several cases of typhoid fever were reported in the flooded area.
16. It has been said that one might move the world with a lever if he had something to rest it upon.
17. He continued to adhere to his beliefs even though he was about to be condemned as a heretic.
18. Those of us whose lives are spent in the Western Hemisphere know little of life in the Orient.
19. Margaret Thatcher was the acknowledged leader of the British Conservative Party, and in her time was one of the most commanding women in the world.
20. Sarah was unable to smother a yawn as James continued to recite the boring particulars of his journey.
21. To this day the name of Daniel Boone is familiar to every Kentuckian.
22. Mrs. Hadley was impressed with the beauty of the Parthenon.

23. Chelsea loved Paris where she got great buys, including a miniature sword for which she paid only a few centimes.
24. Sir Francis Drake began his maritime career by plundering Spanish galleons.
25. Because money laundering is illegal it is always done in secret.
26. Many doctoral theses involve hard and painstaking work.
27. The old abandoned enamelworks is being leased for a new factory.
28. The copyright for this book is owned by Houghton Mifflin Co.
29. PARADISE LOST by John Milton tells of Lucifer's fall from ethereal splendor to the underworld of Hades.
30. Perhaps I will buy a new stove because my old-time gas range is not equipped with a timer.
31. My grandmother had saved enough coupons for a handsome new set of luggage.
32. Throughout the '30s, known as the drought years, many farmers were hard-pressed for money.
33. John Paul Jones was one of the early pioneers of the American Navy.
34. Abraham Lincoln was known by the nickname "Honest Abe."
35. Whereas Colonel Doubleday cherished the family heirlooms even though they had no monetary value, his wife regarded them with disdain.
36. Just above Glasgow is one of the handsomest villas in Scotland, which has been purchased by the baronet.
37. Spring had arrived early, and the lovely anemones had blossomed in the nearby woods.
38. One's hereditary characteristics are determined by his chromosomes.
39. His lordship, a real character, partook generously of the sparkling beverage and fell into a deep reverie.
40. The response from the prisoner of war to the chaplain's words of solace was incoherent.
41. Everett was too dispirited to participate in the holiday festivities.
42. OF HUMAN BONDAGE was one of W. Somerset Maugham's earliest successes.
43. Wherever he goes he orders haddock or swordfish.
44. Quick, duck down here below the wall so mother cannot find us.
45. His gift to the children is a little below average as he is not as prosperous now as he has been heretofore.
46. "Going! Going! Gone!" shouted the young seller of the valuable mother-of-pearl brooch.

