Hi! I’m Marianne Raynaud, and I’m here to help you improve your level of spoken English. This series of podcasts is designed to help you master oral grammar. For work on vocabulary and pronunciation you can go to our other series called “Your English”. For fun with song lyrics try “5-Minute TOPs”. This episode deals with contractions. Contractions are used in informal speech and can be a major obstacle to comprehension. If you have not studied much English or have problems with comprehension, we suggest you try Podcast No. 9 in this series, which is quite a bit easier. If you just need more practice, then stay with us. Both the script and a worksheet are available with this podcast. Let’s get started.

Listen and repeat these full forms followed by the equivalent contractions.

He will = He’ll
Will he not? = Won’t he?
Did you not tell him? = Didn’t you tell him?
You have not = You haven’t
You had better = You’d better
I would have done it = I’d have done it
He has gone = He’s gone
If I had known = If I’d known
You would forget = You’d forget
You are forgetful = You’re forgetful
You would agree = You’d agree
Would you not? = Wouldn’t you?
It will not = It won’t be
We are relying = We’re relying

Now listen to a short monolog with the above contractions.

The new trainee’ll be checking the software program soon, won’t he? Didn’t you tell him about it? If you haven’t as yet, you’d better do so before he’s gone. I’d have done it myself, if I’d known you’d forget. You’re very forgetful, aren’t you? You’d agree on that point, wouldn’t you? This time the assignment won’t be forgotten, will it? We’re relying on you, you know!

Now listen and repeat the same monolog with full forms.

The new trainee will be checking the software program soon, will he not? Did you not* tell him about it? If you have not as yet, you had better do so before he has gone. I would have done it myself, if I had known you would forget. You are very forgetful, are you not? * You would agree on that point, would you not? * This time the assignment will not be forgotten, will it? We are relying on you, you know!

Finally, listen and repeat the same monolog with the contracted forms.
The new trainee’ll be checking the software program soon, won’t he? Didn’t you tell him about it? If you haven’t as yet, you’d better do so before he’s gone. I’d have done it myself, if I’d known you’d forget. You’re very forgetful, aren’t you? You’d agree on that point, wouldn’t you? This time the assignment won’t be forgotten, will it? We’re relying on you, you know!

Finally, I’ll give the full forms and you’ll say the contracted forms. Listen to the examples.

I say: He will check
You say: He’ll check

I say: Will he not?
You say: Won’t he?

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

He will check You’d better do so You would agree
He’ll check He has gone You’d agree
Will he not? He’s gone Would you not?
Won’t he? If I had known Wouldn’t you?
Did you not tell him? If I’d known It will not be
Didn’t you tell him? You would forget It won’t be
You have not told him You’d forget We are relying on you
You haven’t told him You are forgetful We’re relying on you
You had better do so You’re forgetful

To end, I’ll give the contracted forms you’ll say the full forms. Listen to the examples.

I say: He’ll check
You say: He will check

I say: Didn’t you tell him?
You say: Did you not tell him?

Now you go on in the same way. Be sure to speak before I give the answer.

He’ll check You had better do so You’d agree
He will check He’s gone You would agree
Won’t he? He has gone Wouldn’t you?
Will he not? If I’d known Would you not?
Didn’t you tell him? If I had known It won’t be
Did you not tell him? You’d forget It will not be
You haven’t told him You would forget We’re relying on you
You have not told him You’re forgetful We’re relying on you
You’d better do so You are forgetful

That’s the end of this episode. Visit www.qualitytime-esl.com to download the script and a worksheet for written practice. To train even more with vocabulary or basic structures try our other series called “Your English”. Teachers interested in more effective teaching can order “QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book” on a DVD or get it immediately in a slightly lighter downloadable version. Bye for now, and don’t forget to keep smiling.

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