

# N APOSTROPHE T (from "The Electric Company")

words and music by Tom Lehrer

SCENE: Outside the cave of a very grouchy hermit.

CAST: A hermit (H) and a very sweet child (C).

C: Isn't it a lovely day?  
H: No, it isn't!  
C: Could you come outside and play?  
H: No, I couldn't!  
C: Did you ever take a hike?  
H: No, I didn't!  
C: How'd you like to ride my bike?  
H: Frankly, I wouldn't!  
C: Isn't, couldn't, didn't, wouldn't -- Is that all you can say?  
H: Isn't, couldn't, didn't, wouldn't --- Yes, now go away!  
The sweetest sound to me,  
It stands for "not,"  
I like it a lot,  
It's spelled N apostrophe T.

C: Have you ever tried to smile?  
H: No, I haven't!  
C: Won't you try it for a while?  
H: No, I won't!  
C: Are there games to play in there?  
H: No, there aren't!  
C: Then why d'you like to stay in there?  
H: Frankly, I don't!  
C: Haven't, won't, aren't, don't -- Is that all you can say?  
H: Haven't, won't, aren't, don't --- And I said "Go away!"  
Grouches all agree,  
We get a glow  
From saying "NO!"  
With N apostrophe T.

C: Do you talk to anyone?  
H: (*wistfully*) No, I don't.  
C: Come on out and have some fun.  
H: (*hesitantly*) No, I couldn't.  
C: Can't you even tell me why?  
H: (*apologetically*) No, I can't.  
C: Will it kill you just to try?  
H: (*wanting to*) Well ..... I shouldn't.  
C: Don't, couldn't, can't, shouldn't -- Now try it once *my* way!  
Do!  
H: Do!  
C: Could!  
H: Could!  
C: Can!  
H: Can!  
C: Should!  
H: Should! Hey, that feels okay!  
C: So come along with me ---  
H: I'll give it a try  
And say goodbye  
To N apostrophe ---  
C: N apostrophe ---  
Both: N apostrophe T!