

The Important Apostrophe: It's and Its

The words *its* and *it's* are often confused. They sound the same, but they have entirely different meanings. *Its* is possessive, showing something that belongs a thing. *It's* is a contraction of the words *it is* or *it has*. The apostrophe shows that the letter 'i' is missing or the letters "as" are missing.

Tip: To know which word is correct, try the sentence using the words *it is* or *it has*. If the sentence makes sense with either, then *it's* is the correct usage. If the sentence does not make sense, then use *its*.

Part I. Read each sentence below. If *it's* or *its* is used correctly in the sentence, circle *right* in the blank. If *it's* or *its* is not used correctly, circle *wrong*.

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| 1. It's important to finish your homework. | right | wrong |
| 2. Does your cat play with its toys? | right | wrong |
| 3. She knows its too late for her to call. | right | wrong |
| 4. The earth rotates on it's axis. | right | wrong |
| 5. Ask your mother if it's all right to come with us. | right | wrong |
| 6. The alien spoke its own language. | right | wrong |
| 7. Do you see where its landed? | right | wrong |
| 8. The car rolled on it's side. | right | wrong |

Part II. In the blanks below, write the correct word: *it's* or *its*.

- I love to watch my dog chase _____ tail.
- Do you know if _____ going to rain?
- _____ song finished, the bird flew away.
- _____ my birthday!
- When _____ your turn, throw Micky the ball.
- Put the phone back in _____ case.
- Will the cow find _____ way home?
- I looked at the movie guide, and _____ already started.