

Its or it's

You use **its**, with no apostrophe, to show that something belongs to an animal or a thing.

The dog is wagging **its** tail.



The baby monkey stays close to **its** mother.



The baby snake is coming out of **its** shell.



The bird is sitting on **its** eggs in **its** nest.



This bucket has lost **its** handle.



I can't play this now because **its** strings are broken.



It's is a short form of **it is** or **it has**. The apostrophe replaces the missing letters.

Look! **It's** a starfish!

it is



It's raining!

it is



Where's the rabbit?

It's in the hat!

it is



Where is my scarf?

It's disappeared!

it has



This is my new coat.

It's got wooden toggles.

it has



Remember!

It's a mouse, as you can see.
(Please notice the apostrophe.)
Its eyes are bright, **its** tail is long.
(Apostrophes here would be wrong!)

Apostrophes

'It's' and 'its' confuse people all the time. Learn this page and make sure you're not one of those poor confused souls.

'It's' means 'it is' or 'it has'

'It's' is a contraction of 'it is' or 'it has'.

It is very cold outside.



It's very cold outside.

It has been a fun day.



It's been a fun day.



'Its' means 'belonging to it'

'Its' is used in the same way as 'his' or 'her'. It shows possession.

Have you seen its feet?

is just like saying...

Have you seen her feet?

You don't need an apostrophe here.

So 'her' in this sentence can be replaced with 'its'.



'Its' doesn't always replace 'his' or 'her' though:

Paris is famous for its museums.

This means 'the museums of Paris'.

Check you've used 'its' or 'it's' correctly

THE GOLDEN RULE

Can you replace 'it's' with 'it is' or 'it has'?

If the answer is 'yes', leave it as 'it's'.

If your answer is 'no', change it to 'its'.

'It is' or 'it has' don't make sense in this sentence.

EXAMPLE

The dog ate it's food. ❌

The dog ate its food. ✅

Quick Questions...

The apostrophe is wrong in each of these phrases. Write out each phrase correctly.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1) the school and it's pupils | 3) Iv'e | 5) the fairie's wings | 7) it's legs |
| 2) Beckys' puppy | 4) theyr'e | 6) the buss' driver | 8) wo'nt |