

USAGE: Commonly Confused Words: It's and Its

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It's is a contraction of the words it is. If you prefer not to write it is, you would write it's.

Its is the possessive form of it. Normally one uses an apostrophe when showing possession. The rule for pronouns, however, is never use an apostrophe in a personal possessive pronoun (except with the word one's).

Directions: fill the blank with either it's or its.

1. ____ about time you showed up!
2. It was ____ first time out of the cage.
3. ____ feet were covered with sand.
4. Get up, ____ time for school.
5. I'm glad to see you; ____ been a long time.
6. ____ important to study hard for tests.
7. The bear protected ____ cubs.
8. ____ my turn to go down the slide.
9. The dog felt great with ____ new hair cut.
10. ____ too late to eat dinner.
11. My car is old and ____ paint is peeling.
12. The bird realized that the wind had blown ____ nest away.
13. The game came to ____ conclusion.
14. Turn down the music, ____ hurting my ears.

USAGE: There/their/they're

There, They're, Their Rules

There

Use **there** to refer to a physical or abstract place. Usually, if you can replace **there** with **here** in the same sentence, and it still makes sense, then you are using it correctly.

Examples

"There is an old haunted house."

"We are going over there to eat."

They're

Use **they're** as a contraction for **they are**. Usually, if you can replace **they're** with **they are** in the same sentence, and it still makes sense, then you are using it correctly.

Examples

"They're coming over for dinner."

"I wonder who they're talking to."

Their

Use **their** to show possession, commonly followed by a noun. Usually, if you can replace **their** with **our** in the same sentence, and it still makes sense, then you are using it correctly.

Examples

"Their dog is pretty awesome."

"Have you seen their new store?"

Fill in the blanks below with the correct form of there/they're/or their. You can consult your LB Brief Usage Glossary for more information.

1. _____ is a store that sells those.
2. Do you know what color _____ eyes are?
3. We should use the ladder to get up _____.
4. Do you think _____ getting a new car?
5. Put that suitcase over _____.
6. I have been reading _____ book every night.
7. It is _____ fault we can't go.
8. Where are my socks? I know _____ here somewhere.
9. I think _____ going to the lake.