

“Its” or “It’s”?

It’s easy to confuse “its” and “it’s.” “Its” is a *possessive pronoun*. “It’s” is a contraction of “it is.” You can use your word processor to locate either by using the “Find/Replace” function. Test: Since “it’s” is a contraction of “it is,” every time you encounter “it’s” in your essay, read it as “it is.” It’ll make sense, or it won’t.

The lost cat found **it’s** way home.

The lost cat found **it is** way home. [Doesn’t work. The proper form is “its.”]

Name: _____

It’s /Its Exercise #1

Directions: Circle the correct answer from the pairs given in each sentence.

1. (It’s/Its) vital that the spacecraft possess redundant safety systems.
2. The ceiling smoke alarm in our bedroom is driving us crazy with (it’s/its) sporadic beeping.
3. (It’s/Its) important to maintain good morale among employees.
4. (It’s/Its) a sunny fall day in the Rocky Mountains: hawks are soaring, elks are bugling, chipmunks are chattering, and trees are swaying in the breeze.
5. My parents are much older now, so (it’s/its) hard for them to keep up with the weekly chores of maintaining a decent-looking yard.
6. When the honey locust tree in our front yard loses (it’s/its) leaves in the fall, the grass is covered with a golden mess.
7. The old sailing ship sped with the wind, (it’s/its) sails billowing in the gale.
8. The sparrow who flew into our kitchen window seemed to have lost (it’s/its) way.
9. When I teach English, (it’s/its) always nice to see students visit me in my office.
10. Somehow, a crayfish found (it’s/its) way into the bathtub drain.