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 to 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**.

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*.

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