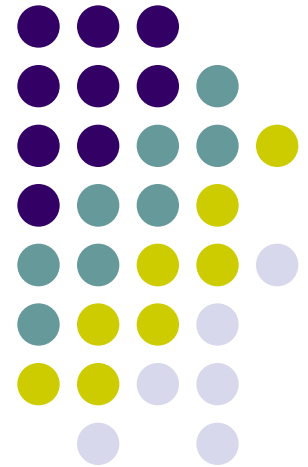
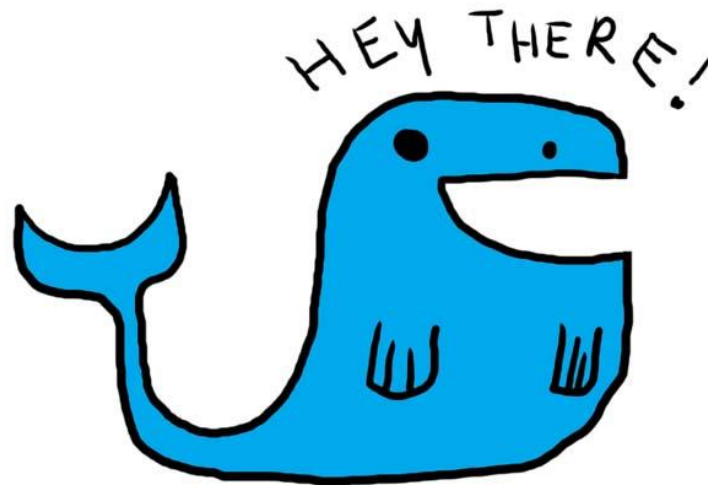


# English Teachers' Pet Peeves

Mixing up *it's* and *its*



# Want to Drive your English Teacher Crazy?



- Easy! You don't even have to misbehave in class. All you have to do is use apostrophes incorrectly.



- On the other hand, learn to get them right, and you'll earn your teacher's undying gratitude. There is only *one* magic rule that you need to learn to achieve this...



# The Magic Apostrophe Rule:

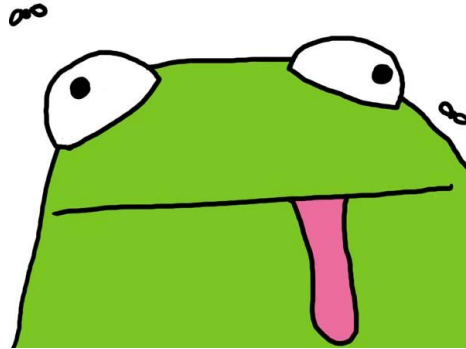
- Except when it is used with a person's name or a noun, an apostrophe almost always stands for a letter that has been left out. If nothing is left out, you don't want an apostrophe.





# The Magic Rule Explained:

- The word *it's* is not a person's name or a noun. Therefore, the apostrophe stands for a letter that has been left out- the "i" in *is*. *It's* is short for *it is*.



- The word *it's* should be used only in places where you could say *it is*.

# Which word should you use in each of the following sentences?



- ***It's/Its*** always exciting to get a gift in the mail.
  
- The car flipped on ***it's/its*** back in the accident.

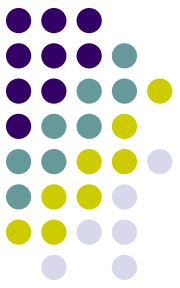
# Did you try substituting *it is* in the sentences?



- Check out the answers:
- **It's** always exciting to get a gift in the mail.
- The car flipped on **its** back in the accident.

# Practice!

## Choose *it's* or *its* in the following sentences:



“***It's/Its*** always me who gets blamed for everything,” whined Felicity.

“You get blamed because ***it's/its*** always your fault,” said her brother calmly. “For example, the car is missing ***it's/its*** front bumper because you failed to notice a stop sign yesterday.”

“I was putting on lipstick,” cried Felicity. “***It's/its*** not my fault. I didn't have time to do it before I left the house.”

“Yes it is,” said Jacob. “***It's/Its*** your fault because you slept through your alarm.” He looked at her carefully. “I do see why you would be desperate, though. You look pretty bad without lipstick. You might also consider using a little more mascara. ***It's/Its*** amazing what a little makeup can do for a homely person.”

Felicity smacked him. Then she went to look for her make-up bag, which, unfortunately, wasn't in ***it's/its*** usual place.

Here's a flying bear for good luck!



you can really do it, dude



# How did you do?



“***It’s*** always *me* who gets blamed for everything,” whined Felicity.

“You get blamed because ***it’s*** always your fault,” said her brother calmly. “For example, the car is missing ***its*** front bumper because you failed to notice a stop sign yesterday.”

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