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 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.