

Write with precision: “its” vs. “it’s”

It’s like this: its corresponds to his or her and it’s is a contraction for it is or it has.

Whereas his and her are the possessive forms of he and she, its is the possessive form of it. Use an apostrophe only if you mean it is or it has.

Examples

The ship provides most of the cargo-handling equipment when it’s the crew’s responsibility to load or unload the ship.

In some cases, it’s been necessary to shift cargo after unloading the ship.

Discuss the earth’s atmosphere and its relationship to meteorology.

Complete and submit the assignment prior to its due date.



A message from the Instructional Materials Developers in the Learning and Teaching Centre.

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