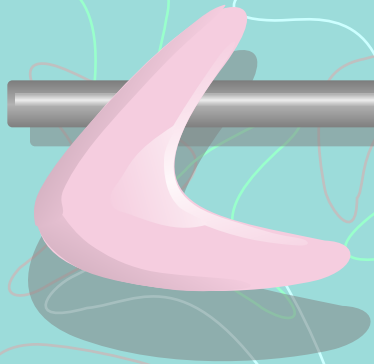


**Contractions**  
**Vs.**  
**Possessive Pronouns:**

**Three Troublesome**  
**Pairs**





Have you ever struggled with choices like these when you write sentences?



- ? The puppy chased (*it's* or *its*) tail.
- ? (*You're* or *Your*) my closest friend.
- ? (*Who's* or *Whose*) bike is in the garage?



Well, you are not alone. Many people  
confuse these pairs of words all the time:

□ *it's* and *its*

□ *you're* and *your*

□ *who's* and *whose*



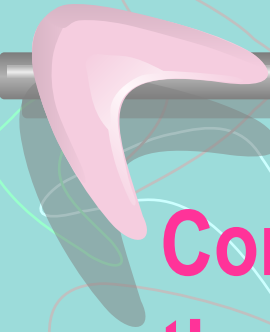
The most obvious difference between the words in each pair is the apostrophe ( ' ) mark:

□ *It's*, *you're*, and *who's* all contain an apostrophe.

□ These 3 words are contractions.

□ *Its*, *your*, and *whose* do **NOT** contain an apostrophe.

□ These 3 words are possessive pronouns.



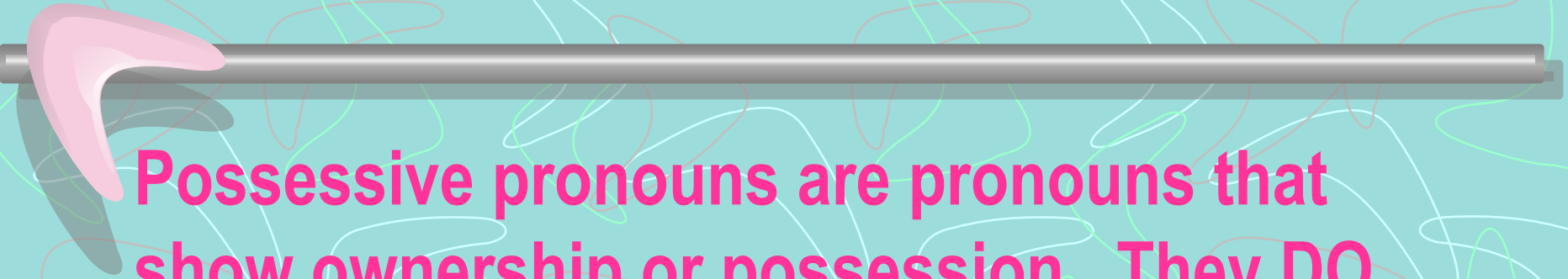
**Contractions join two words into one. In the process, one or more letters are left out, and an apostrophe replaces these letters.**

### Two Words

- **It is** or **It has**
- **You are**
- **Who is** or **Who has**

### Contraction

- **It's**—apostrophe replaces the i in *is* or the ha in *has*
  - **It's** time to begin. (It is)
  - **It's** been a long day. (It has)
- **You're**—apostrophe replaces the a in *are*
  - **You're** bothering me. (You are)
- **Who's**—apostrophe replaces the i in *is* or the ha in *has*
  - **Who's** ready to begin? (Who is)
  - **Who's** seen my keys? (Who has)



**Possessive pronouns are pronouns that show ownership or possession. They DO NOT need an apostrophe to show ownership, unlike nouns, which DO need an apostrophe to show ownership:**

**Possessive Pronoun---His car (pronoun with no 's)**

**Possessive Noun---Bob's car (noun with an 's)**



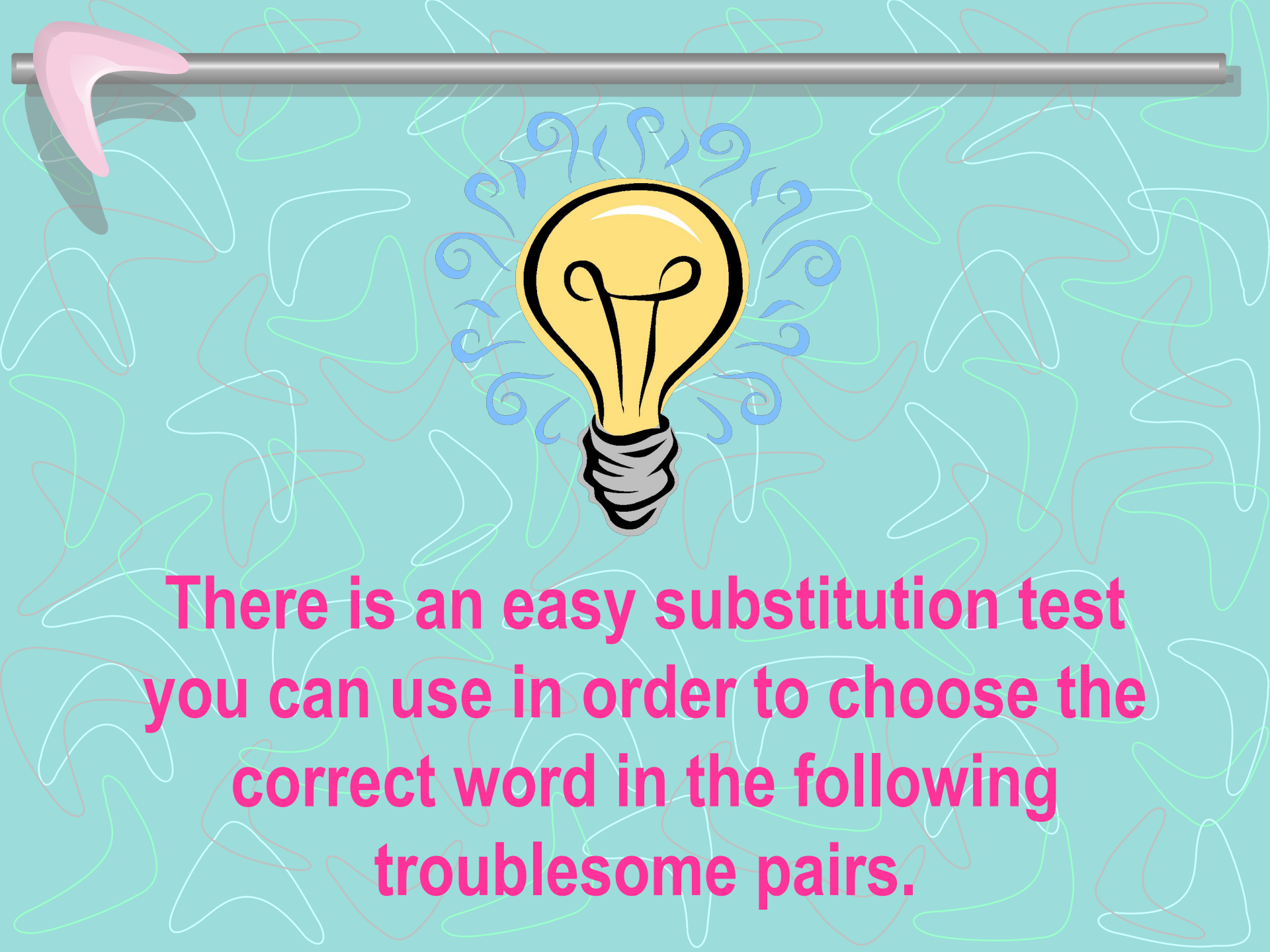


## Possessive Pronoun

- **Its**—no apostrophe
  - The kitten could not find **its** squeak toy.
- **Your**—no apostrophe
  - I like **your** taste in clothes.
- **Whose**—no apostrophe
  - We don't know **whose** car is parked in the fire lane.

## Meaning

- Belonging to it
- Belonging to you
- Belonging to whom



**There is an easy substitution test  
you can use in order to choose the  
correct word in the following  
troublesome pairs.**





# The puppy chased (*it's* or *its*) tail.

Substitute it is or it has. If the sentence makes sense, then use the contraction, *it's*. If it doesn't make sense, then use the possessive pronoun, *its*.

The puppy chased it is tail. The puppy chased it has tail.

☹ Sentence makes no sense, so use *its*.

The puppy chased its tail. ✓



---

***(You're or Your) my closest friend.***

Substitute You are. If the sentence makes sense, then use the contraction, ***You're***. If it doesn't make sense, then use the possessive pronoun, ***Your***.

**You are my closest friend.**

☺ Sentence makes sense, so use ***You're***.

**You're my closest friend. ✓**



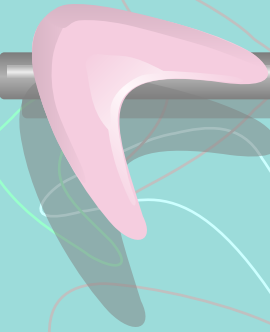
# *(Who's or Whose) bike is in the garage?*

Substitute Who is or Who has. If the sentence makes sense, then use the contraction, **Who's**. If it doesn't make sense, then use the possessive pronoun, **Whose**.

Who is bike is in the garage? Who has bike is in the garage?

☹ Sentence makes no sense, so use **Whose**.

Whose bike is in the garage? ✓



**Remember to  
use this  
substitution rule,  
and you'll  
ALWAYS make  
the right choice!**

