

HELP



Do not confuse the possessive pronoun *its* with the contraction *it's*. The pronoun *its* means "belonging to it." The contraction *it's* means "it is" or "it has." The apostrophe shows that letters have been left out.

Some other possessive pronouns that are often confused with contractions are *their*, meaning "belonging to them," (confused with *they're*, meaning "they are") and *your*, meaning "belonging to you" (confused with *you're*, meaning "you are").

Reference Note

For more information about **words that are often confused**, see page 329.

Personal Pronouns

	Singular	Plural
First person	I, me, my, mine	we, us, our, ours
Second person	you, your, yours	you, your, yours
Third person	he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its	they, them, their, theirs

The **possessive pronouns**—*my, mine, our, ours, your, yours, her, hers, his, its, their, and theirs*—are personal pronouns that are used to show ownership or possession.

EXAMPLES Nina stored **her** suitcase under **her** bed.

Is that paper **yours** or **mine**?

NOTE

Some teachers prefer to call some possessive forms of pronouns (such as *my, your, and our*) adjectives. Follow your teacher's instructions regarding possessive forms.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

A **reflexive pronoun** refers to the subject and is necessary to the basic meaning of the sentence. An **intensive pronoun** emphasizes its antecedent and is unnecessary to the basic meaning of the sentence.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

First person	myself, ourselves
Second person	yourself, yourselves
Third person	himself, herself, itself, themselves

REFLEXIVE They chose new books for **themselves**.
She gave **herself** the day off from practicing.

INTENSIVE David **himself** bought a sandwich.
The award will be presented by the principal **herself**.