

Word Choice – Exercise 13: *Its* and *It's*

This handout accompanies Exercise 13 of ***Grammar Bytes!*** Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choices—*its* or *it's*.

1. As strawberry ice cream dribbled down the cone and over his hand, Jerry complained, “_____ so hot out here that my tongue can’t keep up!”
2. The frozen cappuccino sat forgotten on the table. _____ sweating cup formed a ring on the polished wood.
3. The cockroaches and ants are very happy since _____ been over a week since Tommy has washed dishes or taken out the trash.
4. _____ obvious that Professor Grayson hates us. She wouldn’t keep assigning 150 pages of reading for every class if she *liked* us!
5. Just as Jackie was completing the last question on the essay test, her pen ran out of ink; _____ ball point dug into the paper but left no words.
6. When the realtor unlocked the door of the old house, Beverly and Bill gasped in disappointment, for _____ floor undulated with warped wood.
7. Francisco decided against a golden retriever puppy as _____ thick coat of long fur would be a vacuuming nightmare.
8. “_____ all over,” announced the lone race official as Veronica crossed the finish line five hours after the winning runner.
9. We assume that our neighbor’s orange tomcat is off on a feline adventure. _____ been a week since we’ve found paw prints on the hoods of our cars.
10. Malinda spooned yogurt into her mouth, savoring _____ cool, creamy blueberry flavor.
11. “Be careful when you close that notebook,” warned Michael. “_____ rings will snap right through your finger!”
12. “_____ time you found a summer job,” Mom declared as she pushed Sonny’s feet from the coffee table and turned off the television.
13. _____ not too late for Ricardo to pass his chemistry class. He just needs to give his attention to Dr. Wilson instead of flirting with Josephine, his pretty lab partner.

14. “_____ been seven years since I’ve seen you!” squealed Sophia when she spied Jerome thumping cantaloupes in the produce section.
15. Clive held the comic book under a magnifying glass, studying _____ spine and corners. He looked for flaws that would help him negotiate a better price.
16. Kay hates to find grapes in her salad as _____ too difficult to stab them with a plastic fork.
17. Opening the door with _____ nose, the puppy entered the bathroom to steal another roll of toilet paper.
18. “_____ either buttered squid tentacles or braised frog legs for dinner,” Mom announced.
19. The octopus tested the cooler lid with a tentacle, planning _____ escape off the pier.
20. The old car struggled up the steep hill, _____ engine sputtering and choking with the effort.



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