WORD CHOICE – EXERCISE 14
(ITS AND IT’S)

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—its or it’s. Check your answers with the interactive version of the exercise.

1. The puppy was unsure if shredding a roll of toilet paper was worthy of praise or a squirt from the water bottle, so it wagged ______ tail with hesitation.

2. “______ been quite a challenge,” Eric admitted as he shook hands with Dr. O’Sullivan on the last day of class.

3. The cup of hot tea sat on ______ saucer, tendrils of steam rising into the air.

4. When Yolanda opened the garden shed door, ______ rusty hinges screamed for oil.

5. ______ kind of you to compliment the landscaping, but Grandpa really needs to sell that rusty old car sitting on cinderblocks.

6. Clarissa sprinkled hot pepper flakes on the arm rests. ______ important that the puppy learns not to chew on the sofa.

7. Every time Sophie’s thumb hit the space bar, she winced. ______ a real disadvantage to slice open a finger while chopping celery if a major research essay is due the next day!

8. The blow dryer whined beside Carla’s ear, ______ hot breath burning her scalp.
9. “Get out of the house!” Mom ordered. “________ too beautiful outside to sit here
playing video games!”

10. _______ a shame that Theo won’t try the squid eyeball stew since Marilyn has made a
really excellent batch this time.

11. The abandoned textbook lay on the coffee shop table, _______ pages ruffled by the
breeze.

12. Tell Charlie that he has 15 minutes to finish. _______ imperative that he turn in his
essay on time since Professor Parker refuses to accept late work.

13. Tony marked his answer sheet with a sharp pencil, _______ point nearly piercing the
thick paper.

14. The cat crouched underneath the oak tree; _______ tail twitched as the feline
watched the squirrel in the branches above.

15. Sylvia sprayed furniture polish on the ancient table. _______ surface gleamed until
the cleaner evaporated, leaving the same old, scarred wood.

16. Saundra sat in the saddle, yelling “Giddyup!” The horse, however, lowered _______ head to graze, ignoring her command.

17. “________ already two weeks overdue!” exclaimed Professor Zuromski as Byron
begged for another extension on his research essay.

18. "________ been forever since you baked chocolate-broccoli muffins," squealed Sienna
as she took her first bite.

19. The stray dog wagged _______ tail, hoping that Nate would share his ham and cheese
sandwich.
20. Beethoven played on the old stereo with ________ one bad speaker popping and crackling like bacon frying in a pan.