

“ I imagine it's the feeling Eve had as she bit into the apple. ”

—From *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly, found by Tori Shiver

## Teach it

1. Write this on the board

**It's**

Proof:

**it's = it is**

Ex:

(it is)  
It's time to go home now.

### PRACTICE THE CONVERSATION:

- A:** Will you read the sentence?  
**B:** *It's time to go home now.*  
**A:** Perfect. How did you spell *it's*?  
**B:** I-t-apostrophe-s.  
**A:** Hmm . . . nope. That's not correct.  
**B:** Yes, it is.  
**A:** No, it's not.  
**B:** *It is time to go home now.*  
**A:** Oh! You're right! Great job.



2. **Explain:**

*This is one of the big ones. So many people write it's, and it's often wrong.*

*What does **it's** mean?*

*That's right. It means "it is." And that is the only thing it means.*

*So every time you use **it's**, substitute the words it is for it and listen. If it makes sense, then you have the right word.*

*When you write **it's**, here is how you prove it:*

- Underline the word.
- Write the proof over it. Write it is in parentheses over the word **it's**.

*The underline means I intentionally made a grammatical choice here. The proof above the word means that it's the correct choice.*

3. **Ask:** *Who is ready to try out this proof with me? (Enact the conversation.)*
4. **Say:** *Open to your grammar chart and find **it's**. Let's jot down the proof on the chart.*

## Model it

5. Project the journal entry and read it.
6. Ask volunteers to read the sentences with **it's** aloud. Enact the conversation with them.

## Practice it

7. **Say:** In your journal today, see if you can use the word **it's** at least five times, underlining each use. Write the proof over each one.

March 6

I just finished reading the book called *Smashed*. The book is interesting and disturbing a bit but I enjoyed reading the book. I like the book in a way. It was more detailed about the character's life so the reader can have a picture in his or her mind of how the character might be. (it is) **It's** kind of sad that Katie's mom never comes that often to be with her kids. (it is) **It's** sad how her friends tried to protect or warn her that the guy Alec she is with is bad. (it is) **It's** hard to know who to trust and (it is) **it's** bad when you really think they are the people they say they are.

—Genesis Thomas  
Grade 7