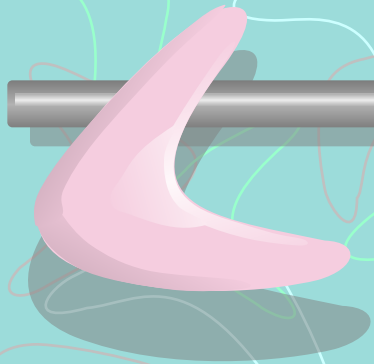


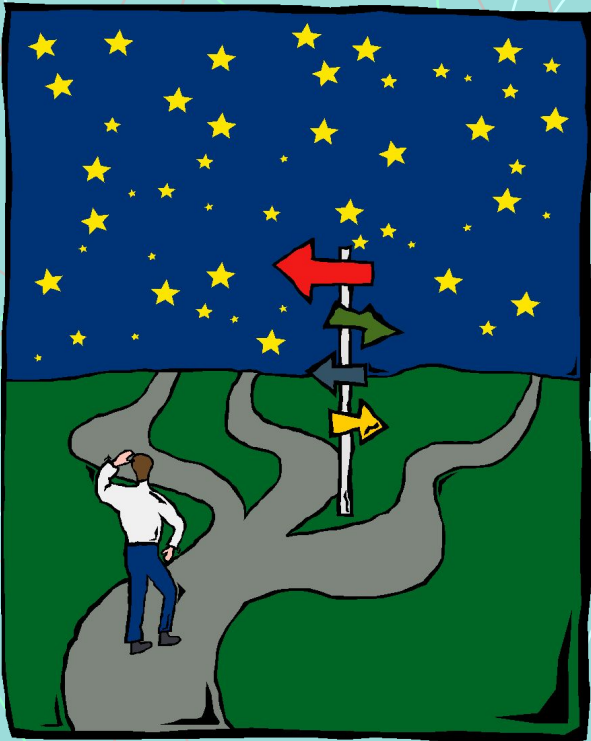
Contractions
Vs.
Possessive Pronouns:

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*



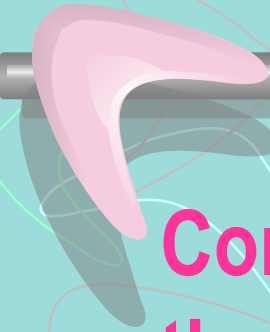
The most obvious difference between the words in each pair is the apostrophe (') mark:

☐ *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.



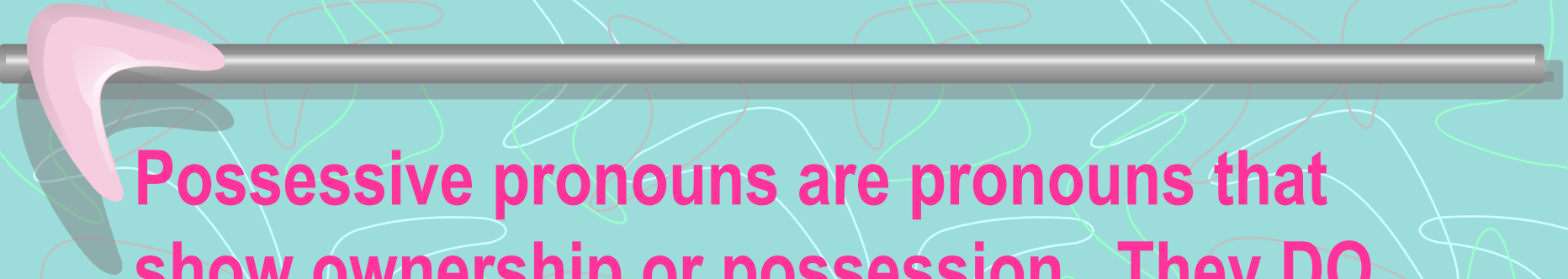
Contractions join two words into one. In the process, one or more letters are left out, and an apostrophe replaces these letters.

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)

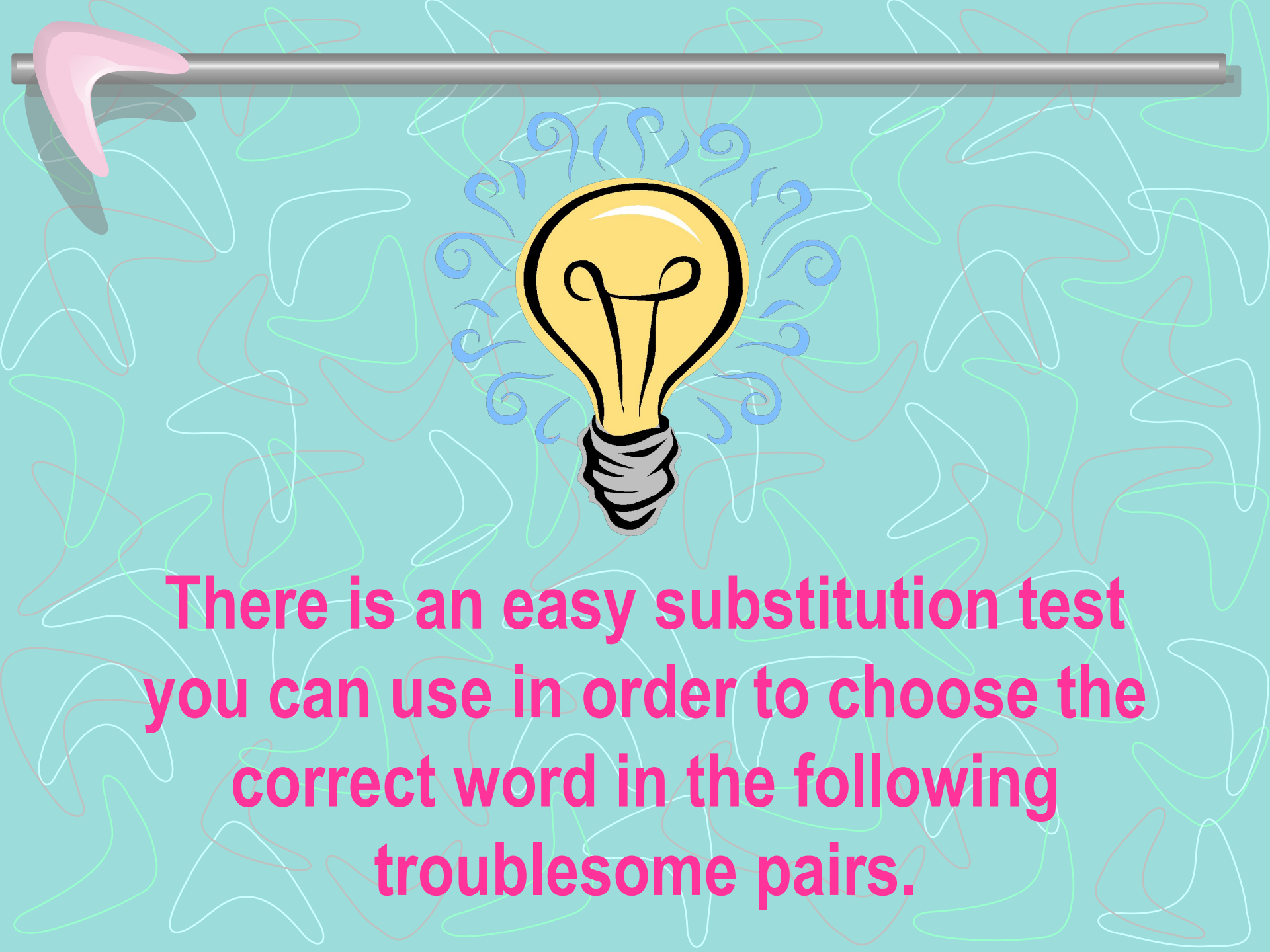


Possessive Pronoun

- **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. ✓



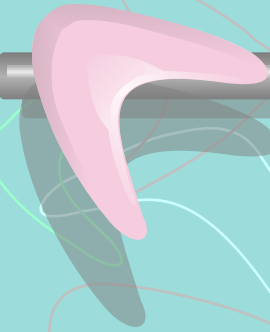
(Who's or Whose) bike is in the garage?

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!**

