

Word Choice – Exercise 14: *Its* and *It's*

This handout accompanies Exercise 14 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. 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. Sandra 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.



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