Commonly Confused Words: Whose/Who’s and Its/It’s

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand the difference between “whose” and “who’s” and the difference between “its” and “it’s.”

1. Go to http://www.myenglishteacher.net/whoseit.html and read about the commonly confused word pairs who’s/whose and it’s/its.

2. Answer the following questions about your reading:
   a. When you talk about possession, do you use an apostrophe? ________________
   b. What is the exception to this rule? ________________________________
   c. What is a contraction? ________________________________
   d. Write three sentences with examples of contractions (not possessives)

3. Now, take the quiz on the same page and review the answers that follow. You may write your answers on a separate sheet or you may print the page and write your answers on the page.

4. On a separate sheet of paper make corrections to the following paragraph.

   Rodney and Kris decided it was best for them to study in the library. Rodney brought his books and Kris brought hers. They met upstairs for what they thought would be two hours of uninterrupted study time. Its too bad that talkative Henry showed up. Kris blood pressure rose when she saw Henry waving at her.
   “Don’t look now,” Kris sighed, “Its Henry. Hes over there.” She pointed at one of the computers.
   Rodney looked away, but Henry called out loudly from across the library, “Hey! Hows it going? Whos going with me to the cafeteria?”
   “Sorry, Henry,” Rodney said as Henry approached, “were here to study.”
   “Whats up with that?” Henry said. Kris saw the librarian hold her finger up to her mouth.
   “We have a big test tomorrow, Henry,” Kris said. Then, turning to Rodney, she said “Lets go.”

5. Take your answers to the web quiz plus this sheet and review them with an instructor or tutor in the WRC. Have that person sign and date this sheet.

_________________________________________    _______________________
Instructor/Tutor signature                          Date