Common Mistakes in English



Grammatical Errors that Make You Look Dumb



Your vs. You're

- "Your" is a possessive pronoun, as in "your car" or "your blog."
- "You're" is a contraction for "you are,

Then vs. Than

- Then: a description of time
- Than: a comparison

lt's vs. Its



- "It's" is a contraction of "it is" or "it has."
- "Its" is a possessive pronoun, as in "this food has lost its taste."

How to check:

Repeat your sentence out loud using "it is" instead. If that sounds good, "its" is likely the correct choice.

There vs. Their

- "There" is used many ways, including as a reference to a place ("let's go there") or as a pronoun ("there is no hope").
- "Their" is a plural possessive pronoun, as in "their bags" or "their opinions."

How to check:

Do the "that's ours!" test.

Are you talking about more than one person and something that they possess? If so, "their" will get you there.

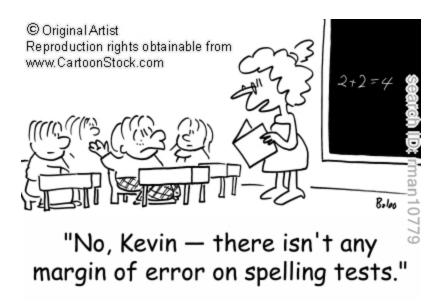
Affect vs. Effect

- "Affect" is a verb, as in "Your ability to communicate clearly will affect your income immensely."
- "Effect" is a noun, as in "The effect of a parent's low income on a child's future is well documented."

How to check:

By thinking in terms of "the effect," you can usually sort out which is which, because you can't stick a "the" in front of a verb.

Spelling Errors



Spelling Errors shown in public (pubic)



Are you sure you want to eat this?



M I S S P E L I N G

DemotivateUs.com

The way to education???





Another way of telling you to get lost



Spelling mistakes

- alot mistakenly written as a lot
- all right -mistakenly written as alright
 Alright is the less formal version of all right
- Definitely mistakenly written as definately
- Dessert (as in the sweet stuff) mistakenly written as desert (geographical term)
- Forty mistakenly written as fourty

Spelling mistakes

- a lot mistakenly written as alot or allot
- all right -mistakenly written as alright
- Definitely mistakenly written as definately
- Dessert (as in the sweet stuff) mistakenly written as desert (geographical term)
- Forty mistakenly written as fourty

Spelling mistakes

- Lose ("unable to find") mistakenly written as loose
- Receive -mistakenly written as recieve ('i' before 'e' except after 'c')
- Restaurant mistakenly written as restuarant, restraunt, and countless other ways
- Separate mistakenly written as separate
- Truly mistakenly written as truely
- Weird mistakenly written as wierd

Additional Grammar Mistakes

Avoid using sexist wording

• Wrong: When the subject reported being finished, the experimenter asked him to complete a second questionnaire.

 Right: When the subject reported being finished, the experimenter administered a second questionnaire.

Bring vs. Take

- Wrong: When we go to the party on Saturday, let's bring a bottle of wine."
- Right: When we go to the party, let's take a bottle of wine.

How to decide:

- When you are viewing the movement of something from the <u>point of arrival</u>, use "**bring**"
- When you are viewing the movement of something from the point of departure, use "take"

Fewer vs. Less

- Wrong: A sign at the checkout of a supermarket: "Ten items or less"..
- Right: Ten items or fewer.

How to decide:

- When you can count the items, you need to use the number word "fewer"
- If you can't count the substance, then you should use "less"

Have vs. Of

- Wrong: I never would of thought that he'd behave like that.
- Right: I never would have/would've thought that he'd behave like that.

Double Negative

- Wrong: I'm not speaking to nobody in this class.
- Right: I'm not speaking to anybody in this class

Went vs. Gone

- Wrong: I should have went to school yesterday.
- Right: I should have gone to school yesterday.
- How to decide:

Format is: should + have + past participle

Other words which are often confused

- Except, expect, and accept
 - Except preposition: with the exclusion of; excluding
 - Expect verb: to look forward to; regard as likely to happen; anticipate the occurrence
 - Accept verb: to take or receive (something offered); receive with approval or favor
- Advise and advice
 - Advise verb: to give counsel to; offer an opinion or suggestion
 - Advice noun: an opinion or recommendation offered as a guide to action,
- Lonely and alone
 - Lonely adjective: causing a depressing feeling of being alone; lonesome
 - Alone adjective: separate, apart, or isolated from others
- Already and all ready
 - Already adverb: by this or that time; previously; prior to or at some specified or implied time
 - All ready ready in every particular; wholly equipped or prepared
- Ambivalent and indifferent
 - Ambivalent noun: uncertainty or fluctuation, especially when caused by inability to make a choice
 - Indifferent adjective: without interest or concern; not caring; apathetic

...Other words which are often confused

- All together and altogether
 - All together adverb: wholly; entirely; completely; quite
 - Altogether adverb: all at the same time, all at once
- Some and any
 - Some adjective: of a certain unspecified number, amount
 - Any adjective: whatever or whichever it may be
- A part and apart
 - A part noun: a portion or division of a whole that is separate or distinct
 - Apart adverb: separately in place, time, motion,
- Beside and besides
 - Beside preposition: by or at the side of; near
 - besides adverb: moreover; furthermore; also

...Other words which are often confused

- Lend and borrow
 - Lend verb: to grant the use of
 - Borrow verb: to take or obtain with the promise to return the same or an equivalent
- Control and check
 - Control verb: to exercise restraint or direction over; dominate; command
 - Check verb, noun: to investigate or verify as to correctness

