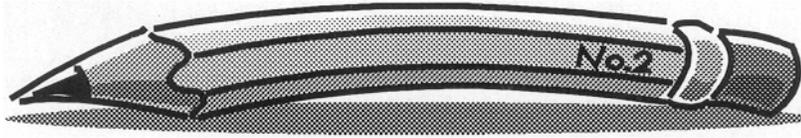


Your Name: _____



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

THEY'RE, THEIR, and THERE

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English has three words that sound the same, but are actually quite different.

They're seems as though it could mean many things. Actually, it is a contraction of *they are*. The confusion probably relates to the fact that people are unsure about using apostrophes. When you write *they're*, ask yourself whether you can substitute *they are*. If not, you have made a mistake.

Their and **Theirs** are possessive pronouns similar to *her* and *hers* and *our* and *ours*. The fact that *heir* (referring to a person who inherits something) is hidden in the words *their* and *theirs* might help you remember that these are possessive pronouns. Another thing to remember with *their* and *theirs* is that possessive pronouns do not take apostrophes as shown in these sentences:

They eat *their* hamburgers with ketchup.

I think the car is *theirs*.

Because of the old rule about “*I* before *e* except after *c*,” people sometimes misspell this word as *t-h-i-e-r*. You can avoid this problem by remembering that all three of these words (*they*, *their*, and *there*) begin with the same three letters: T-H-E.

There is the most common of these three words. It is used in such sentences as:

There goes the ball--out of the park!

Put it right *there*!

There are not many home runs hit like that.

Another helpful hint is that *here* is buried inside *there*. The phrase “*here* and *there*” might help you remember that T-H-E-R-E is the word that people sometimes use to point to a place.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with the appropriate form: *they're, their, there*.

1. _____ dog is an annoying mutt.
2. _____ once was a bird called a Dodo.
3. My aunt and uncle are arriving tomorrow. _____ coming from California.
4. Many years ago _____ were not any cars, so people used to travel by horse and carriage.
5. My neighbors have bought a second car. _____ new one is candy apple red.
6. Surprisingly, both of _____ cars are 4WD.
7. If you look over _____ you will see the beautiful sunset.
8. Have you seen where _____ building that new road?
9. I think _____ address is 1171 Newlands Road.
10. Do you know what _____ phone number is?

Answers: 1. Their, 2. There, 3. They're, 4. there, 5. Their, 6. their, 7. there, 8. they're, 9. their, 10. their.

Lesson created by Brendan Wydra