Bas du formulaire

## **Common Grammar Mistakes PART ONE**

### **1. They're vs. Their vs. There**

One's a contraction for "they are" (they're), one refers to something owned by a group (their), and one refers to a place (there).

They're going to love going there -- I heard their food is the best!

### **2. Your vs. You're**

The difference between these two is owning something versus actually being something:

You made it around the track in under a minute -- ***you're fast!***

How's ***your fast*** going? Are you getting hungry?

See the difference? "Your" is possessive and "you're" is a contraction of "you are.".

### **3. Comparisons**

This one drives me up a wall when I see it in the wild. Can you see what's wrong with this sentence?

Our car model is faster, better, stronger.

Faster, better, stronger ... than what? What are you comparing your car to? A horse? A competitor's car? An older model?.

### **4. Possessive Nouns**:

* If the noun is plural, add the apostrophe after the s. For example: the dogs' bones.
* If the noun is singular and ends in s, you should also put the apostrophe after the s. For example: the dress' blue color.
* On the other hand, if the noun is singular and doesn't end in an s, you'll add the apostrophe before the s. For example: the lizard's tail.

Simple, right? If you want a deeper dive into the rules of possessive nouns,

### **5. Affect vs. Effect**

Effect, with an "e," isn't used as a verb the way "affect" is, so the sentence above is incorrect. When you're talking about the change itself -- the noun -- you'll use "effect."

That movie had a great effect on me.

When you're talking about the act of changing -- the verb -- you'll use "affect."

That movie affected me greatly.

### **9. To vs. Too**

"To" is typically used before a noun or verb, and describes a destination, recipient, or action. Take these examples:

My friend drove me to my doctor's appointment. (Destination)

I sent the files to my boss. (Recipient)

I'm going to get a cup of coffee. (Action)

"Too," on the other hand, is a word that's used as an alternative to "also" or "as well." It's also used to describe an adjective in extremes. Have a look:

We both think it's too cold outside.

### **10. Who vs. That**

This one is tricky. These two words can be used when you're describing someone or something through a phrase like, "Lindsay is a blogger who likes ice cream." When you're describing a person, be sure to use "who."

When you're describing an object, use "that." For example, you should say, "Her computer is the one that overheats all the time."

### **11 Lose vs. Loose**

When people mix up "lose" and "loose," it's usually just because they're spelled so similarly. They know their definitions are completely different.

According to [**Merriam-Webster**](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lose), "lose" is a verb that means "to be unable to find (something or someone), to fail to win (a game, contest, etc.), or to fail to keep or hold (something wanted or valued)." It's like losing your keys or losing a football match.

"Loose" is an adjective that means "[**not tightly fastened, attached, or held**](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/loose)," like loose clothing or a loose tooth.

A trick for remembering the difference is to think of the term "loosey-goosey" -- both of those words are spelled with two o's.

### **12. Then vs. Than**

"than" is a conjunction used mainly to make comparisons -- like saying one thing was better "than" another.

"Then" is mainly an adverb used to situate actions in time:

We made dinner, and then we ate it.

### **13. Title Capitalization**

This one is tough, since so many different outlets apply different rules to how titles are capitalized. Luckily, I have a secret weapon -- **[TitleCap](http://titlecapitalization.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**.

The site outlines capitalization rules as follows:

1. Capitalize the first and the last word.
2. Capitalize nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, and subordinate conjunctions.
3. Lowercase articles ("a," "an," "the"), coordinating conjunctions, and prepositions.