

Grammar

Proper use of grammar is essential. Some of the most common grammatical errors are discussed below.

Their/There/They're

Their is a possessive pronoun. It will always describe a noun. Example: It is their house.

There is an adverb meaning “that location.” Example: The book is over there.

They're is a contraction of *they are*. The *a* in *are* is replaced with an apostrophe to form the contraction *they're*. Example: They're going to the movies.

Accept/Except

Proper use of accept and except is important because the two words are basically opposite in their meaning.

Accept means “to receive.” Example: I always accept gifts with thanks.

Except can be a verb meaning “to leave out,” but it is usually used as a preposition meaning “leaving out” or “but.” Example: I like all vegetables except lima beans.

Affect/Effect

The word *affect* is primarily used as a verb. *Affect* can mean to change the mental state of, to alter the feelings of, or to change someone or something in some way. Example: How will war affect the economy?

The word *effect* is primarily used as a noun. Generally, the word *effect* refers to the result of something. Example: The war had a major effect on the economy.

Then/Than

Then is typically used to mark time or is used in a sequence of events. I got home, and then I made dinner.

Than is not related to time. It is typically used in comparative statements. Example: He is bigger than his brother.

Name _____

Date _____

Grammar (Cont'd)

Who/Whom/Whose

Who is a subject pronoun. It is used to ask which person does an action. Example: Who ate the pizza?

Whom is an object pronoun. It is used to ask which person receives an action. Example: Whom are you going to call?

Whose is a possessive pronoun. It is used to find out which person something belongs to. Example: Whose coat is this?

To/Too/Two

To can be used in a couple of different ways. It can be used as a preposition, in which case it will always precede a noun. Example: I went to the store.

To can also be used to indicate an infinitive. In this case, the word *to* will generally precede a word that is typically used as a verb. Example: I need to run.

Too generally means “also” or “excessively.” Example: I want to go too, but I am too tired.

Two indicates the actual number. Example: I saw two cardinals in the sky.

Name _____

Date _____

Grammar Questions

Fill in the blank with the correct word:

Except/Accept

1. The candidate was happy to _____ the nomination.
2. Everyone was glad to go home _____ Jane.
3. She has everything she wants _____ a car.
4. He wanted to _____ the offer.

To/Too/Two

5. Tim has _____ cars in his driveway.
6. Mark attends kung fu classes _____.
7. Jeb goes _____ the store to buy cat food.
8. William likes to write on the chalkboard _____.

Their/There/They're

9. This is _____ house.
10. They went over _____.
11. _____ happy about getting _____ own dog.
12. _____ socks were always clean.

Name _____

Date _____

Grammar Answers

Fill in the blank with the correct word:

Except/Accept

1. The candidate was happy to **accept** the nomination.
2. Everyone was glad to go home **except** Jane.
3. She has everything she wants **except** a car.
4. He wanted to **accept** the offer.

To/Too/Two

5. Tim has **two** cars in his driveway.
6. Mark attends kung fu classes **too**.
7. Jeb goes **to** the store to buy cat food.
8. William likes writing on the chalkboard **too**.

Their/There/They're

9. This is **their** house.
10. They went over **there**.
11. **They're** happy about getting **their** own dog.
12. **Their** socks were always clean.