

COMMONLY CONFUSED HOMOPHONES

THERE - THEIR - THEY'RE

There - Typically used as a pronoun or adverb - often describes a location

Examples: Look over **there**!

There are two books here.

Their - A possessive pronoun

Example: **Their** cat has a black tail.

They're - A contraction for "they are"

Example: **They're** going to be really late for the party.

YOUR - YOU'RE

Your - a possessive pronoun - shows ownership

Example: Don't leave **your** shoes on the ground!

You're - a contraction for "you are"

Example: **You're** much taller than me.

THAN - THEN

Than - used to compare

Examples:

Tim is taller **than** his brother.

That skirt costs more **than** this one.

Then - indicates the passage of time or when something happens

Examples:

We went to the store and **then** to the pool.

She is going to do it **then**.

ARE - OUR

Are - form of the verb "to be"

They **are** redheaded.

Are you ready?

Our - possessive pronoun

Those are **our** friends.

Our backpacks are purple.

ONE-WON

One - the number
I have **one** sister.

Won - past tense of win

We **won** the game.

HEAR - HERE

Hear - an action involving ones ears
I can **hear** the firetruck coming!

Here - indicates location
The kids are over **here**!

TO - TWO - TOO

In the vast majority of cases, when choosing between these words, you will choose "to". It is a preposition and can be used in many ways.

"Too" is used in two situations. It can be used to show a degree of excess when it comes before an adjective or adverb.

Examples:

The soup was **too** hot.

We are driving **too** fast!

It can also be used to replace the word "also".

Examples:

I'd like to go fishing, **too**.

I, **too**, am a music lover.

"Two" is used for the number.

Example:

A bicycle has **two** wheels.

ITS - IT'S

Its - possessive pronoun

The dog chased **its** tail for hours.

Its claws were razor sharp!

It's - contraction for "it is"

It's a shame you can't make it to the party.

I'm not sure if **it's** going to rain.

ACCEPT - EXCEPT

Accept - a verb which means to receive.
The charity will not **accept** used toys.
Except - a preposition which means exclude.
Everyone got to go **except** me.

BUY - BY

Buy - a verb which means to purchase
I am going to **buy** a house next fall.
By - a preposition indicating location or a method of transmission
The park is **by** the river.
A postcard is delivered **by** mail.

WEATHER - WHETHER

Weather - refers to a state of the atmosphere or climate

The **weather** today is a bit chilly.
Have you seen the **weather** forecast?

Whether - a conjunction which introduces choice

Decide **whether** or not you're coming with us!

BEAR - BARE

Bear - a large mammal or the act of supporting or tolerating

I saw a polar **bear** at the zoo.

The stress of the new job was more than I could **bear**.

Bare - lacking clothing or substance
He ran in **bare** feet.

The cupboard was **bare**.

CAPITOL - CAPITAL

Capitol - a building where government officials meet.

The **capitol** building is located downtown.

Capital - refers to a city or an uppercase letter.

Indianapolis is the **capital** of Indiana.

Begin a sentence with a **capital** letter.

PRINCIPAL - PRINCIPLE

Principal - the head of a school

The **principal** was in charge of student discipline.

Principle - basic truths or morals

My parents taught me many important **principles** when I was young.

WITCH- WHICH

Witch - a scary woman - often associated with Halloween

The **witch** had a wart on her nose.

Which - a pronoun used to reference things or animals.

Which cupcake

BREAK - BRAKE

Break - to shatter, smash, dismantle or to pause, an interruption
You could throw a rock to **break** the glass.
We need to take a **break** at noon.

Brake - part of a vehicle that enables it to stop

I put on the **brake**, but we didn't slow down.

ALLOUD - ALLOWED

Aloud - something said out loud

The students read the story **aloud**.

Allowed - permitted, acceptable

Dogs aren't **allowed** at the swimming pool.

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COMPLIMENT - COMPLEMENT

Compliment - an expression of praise
I gave her a **compliment** on her new shoes.

Complement - something that enhances or makes complete
The pickles **complement** the sandwich perfectly!

AFFECT - EFFECT

Affect and **effect** are similar, but **affect** is typically used as a verb and **effect** as a noun.
The change in pace didn't **affect** me.
The prescription has a side **effect**.