

Your vs You're

Your is possessive, meaning it indicates to whom something belongs.

Ex. This is your sweater.

Your house is blue.

You're is a contraction of "you are."

Ex. You're a great speller!

You're driving me crazy!

There, Their, They're

There is locational, it represents a place. That place can be specified or unspecified.

Ex (specified). The computer is over there.

Look over there!

Ex (unspecified). There are two apples.

There once was a young boy living on a farm...

Their is possessive, just like your. It shows ownership. Here's a trick: Use "our" instead of "their." If the sentence still makes sense, "their" is correct.

Ex. Their car is blue. (Our car is blue)

Will you show the guests to their rooms?

They're is a conjunction of "they are," just like "you're."

Ex. They're not leaving until Saturday.

They're really good at basketball.

Affect vs Effect

Affect is a verb. It means "to influence."

Ex. The rain affected our soccer game.

Effect is a noun. It means "a result."

Ex. The rain had no effect on our soccer game.

Ex. The effect of sunlight on plant growth (for a science lab report).

Fewer vs Less

Fewer is used for things you can quantify - things you can count.

Ex. There are fewer apples than oranges.

Less is used for hypothetical quantities.

Ex. I like chocolate less than vanilla.

Who vs. Whom

Whom is used when you are referring to the object of the sentence, the one being acted upon.

Ex. Whom did you step on?

Who is used when you are asking about the subject of a sentence, the one taking action.

Ex. Who stepped on Jack's foot?

QUICK TIP: Like "whom," the pronoun "him" ends with "m." When you are deciding whether you should use "who" or "whom," ask if the answer to the question would be "he" or "him."

Ex. Q: Whom did you step on? A: I stepped on him.

Q: Who stepped on Jack? A: He stepped on Jack.