**Common Word Errors**

The following are common errors that students, people, and sometimes even teachers make.

It’s vs. Its

* It’s = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: It’s mine. It’s gone.
* Its = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: a dog without its tail.

There vs. Their vs. They’re

* There = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: over there.
* Their = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: taking their time. That’s their funeral.
* They’re = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: They’re off!

There’s vs. Theirs

* There’s = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: There’s lots of it about.
* Theirs = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: That’s theirs, not ours.

Where vs. Were vs. We’re

* Where (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Where is it then?
* Were (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We were lost.
* We’re (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We’re short of cash.

Who’s vs. Whose

* Who’s = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Who’s that? Who’s done that?
* Whose =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Whose car is that?

Your vs. You’re

* Your = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: That is your problem.
* You’re = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: You’re late again.

To vs. Two vs. Too

* To = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: to the zoo
* Infinitive: to sing, to play, to do, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Two = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I have two cats.
* Too = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Too hot, too much; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: You come, too.

Of vs. Off vs. Have

* Of = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Queen of Hearts (not a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
* Off (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: he fell off a cliff.
* Have = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I should have (or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) known this.

Lets vs. Let’s

* Lets = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: He lets us talk.
* Let’s = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Let’s go then.

Passed vs. Past

* Passed = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: He passed his exam. She has passed the corner.
* Past = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The past, past ages, went past, past caring.

Lie vs. Lay

* I lie/am lying/lay/have lain down for a rest = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* I lay/am laying/laid/have laid something down flat = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lose vs. Loose

* Lose (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: win or lose.
* Loose (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: a loose tooth.

Affect vs. Effect

* Affect (can only be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Did it affect you?
* Effect (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The effect was devastating.

No vs. Know

* No = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Know = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I know how to ski.

New vs. Knew

* New = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Knew = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I knew her well.

Accept vs. Except

* Accept = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I accept your offer.
* Except = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: All except one.

Quiet vs. Quite

* Quiet = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Be quiet!
* Quite (rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Quite right.

Weather vs. Whether

* Weather = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: What awful weather!
* Whether = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: I don’t know whether I can come.

Aloud vs. Allowed

* Aloud = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Stop thinking aloud.
* Allowed = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: No smoking allowed.

Principal vs. Principle

* Principal = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the principal points, the high school principal.
* Principle = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: the principle of the matter.

Practice vs. Practise

* Practice = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: A games practice, doctor’s practice.
* Practise = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_): You need to practise at tennis.