

# Common Writing Mistakes

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

**Their, there** and **they're** are not interchangeable

- *Their = belonging to them*
- *There = location or abstract reference*
- *They're = they are*

**Whose** and **who's** are not the same thing

- *Whose = belonging to who*
- *Who's = who is*

**Then** and **than** are not synonyms

- *Then = after or following*
- *Than = comparison*

**Further** and **farther** are not interchangeable

- *Further = figurative*
- *Farther = distance*
  - *Remember farther refers to a physical distance.*

**Principal** and **principle** are no more than homonyms

- *Principal = a person of importance or reference to a portion of a loan*
- *Principle = a rule*

**Its** and **it's** have different meanings

- *Its = belonging to it*
- *It's = it is*

**Conceded** and **conceited** are not the same thing

- *Conceded = to admit, recognize or give up*
- *Conceited = vain*

**Lose** and **loose** have separate meanings

- *Lose = the opposite of win*
- *Loose = the opposite of tight*

## RAVEN

Remember **A**ffect is a **V**erb and **E**ffect is a **N**oun

### NOT REAL WORDS

*Irregardless and irregardlessly are not words.*

- The word you are looking for is regardless.

*Alot is not a word.*

- The words you are looking for are a lot (an excess) or alot (to allow).

### WORD REPLACE TRICK

**Who** = can be substituted with she or he

- Who She went to the store?

**Whom** = can be substituted with her or him

- You went the store with whom him?

## SIMILAR BUT DIFFERENT

Affect or Effect?

- **Affect** = to change or make a difference
- **Effect** = a result

Began or Begun?

- **Began** (past tense) = "She began her speech with a joke."
- **Begun** (past participle) = "She has begun her speech."

Your or Your're?

- **Your** (possessive) = "Your dog is cute."
- **You're** (you are) = "You are walking the dog."

Advise or Advice?

- **Advise** = to give guidance or recommendations
- **Advice** = words of wisdom or guidance

That or Which?

- **That** = changes the meaning of the sentence with the clause that it introduces
- **Which** = the sentence can live with the same meaning without the clause it precedes

## TWO HUNDRED TUTUS IS TOO MANY TO COUNT.

*Two* = numerical value of 2

*Too* = in addition or excess

*To* = indicates direction, the noun affected, an understood verb

### FLIER vs. FLYER

BOTH ARE CORRECT – just be consistent

#### Flier

- AP Style
- A handout or pamphlet
- A person or thing that flies
- Often considered to be more American English

#### Flyer

- A handout or pamphlet
- Often considered to be more British English

### APOSTROPHES

plurals, possessives or contractions

#### Teams or Teams'

- Plural or Plural Possessive
- *The teams were well matched.*
- *The two teams' players were well matched.*

#### Team's

- Possessive or Contraction
- *The team's players were ready for the game.*
- *The team's ready for the game.*