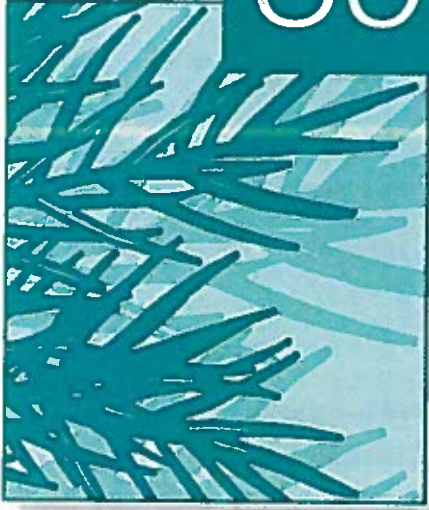


# Look-Alikes/ Sound-Alikes



## A/an/and

1. *A* is used before a word beginning with a consonant or a consonant sound.  
*a* man    *a* house    *a* union (here *u* sounds like the consonant *y*)
2. *An* is used before a word beginning with a vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*) or silent *h*.  
*an* igloo    *an* apple    *an* hour (*h* in *hour* is silent)
3. *And* joins words or ideas together.  
Edward *and* Ralph are taking the same biology class.  
She is very honest, *and* most people respect her.

## PRACTICE 1

Fill in *a, an, or and*.

1. The administration building is \_\_\_\_\_ old brick house on top of \_\_\_\_\_ hill.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ artist \_\_\_\_\_ two students share that studio.
3. The computer in my office has \_\_\_\_\_ flat screen \_\_\_\_\_ CD burner.
4. For lunch, Ben ate \_\_\_\_\_ tofu sandwich, \_\_\_\_\_ apple, \_\_\_\_\_ two bananas.

## Accept/except

1. *Accept* means to receive.  
That college *accepts* only women.    I *accepted* his offer of help.
2. *Except* means other than or excluding.  
Everyone *except* Marcelo thinks it's a good idea.

**PRACTICE 2** Fill in *accept* or *except*.

1. Jan has read all of Shakespeare's comedies \_\_\_\_\_ one.
2. Please \_\_\_\_\_ my apologies.
3. Unable to \_\_\_\_\_ defeat, the boxer protested the decision.
4. Sam loves all his courses \_\_\_\_\_ chemistry.

**Affect/effect**

1. *Affect* (verb) means to have an influence on or to change.  
Her father's career as a lawyer *affected* her decision to go to law school.
2. *Effect* (noun) means the result of a cause or an influence.  
Careful proofreading had a positive *effect* on Carl's grades.
3. *Effect* is also a verb that means to cause.  
The U.S. Senate is attempting to *effect* changes in foreign policy.

**PRACTICE 3** Fill in *affect* or *effect*.

1. You are mistaken if you **think** alcohol will not \_\_\_\_\_ your judgment.
2. Attractive, neat clothing will have a positive \_\_\_\_\_ on a job.
3. Hot, humid summers always have the \_\_\_\_\_ of making me lazy.
4. We will not be able to \_\_\_\_\_ these changes without the cooperation of the employees and the union.

**Been/being**

1. *Been* is the past participle form of *to be*. *Been* is usually used after the helping verb *have, has, or had*.  
She *has been* a poet for ten years.
2. *Being* is the *-ing* form of *to be*. *Being* is usually used after the helping verb *is, are, am, was, or were*.  
They *are being* helped by the salesperson.

**PRACTICE 4** Fill in *been* or *being*.

1. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ to Rib Heaven yet?
2. Pete thinks his phone calls are \_\_\_\_\_ taped.
3. Are you \_\_\_\_\_ secretive, or have I \_\_\_\_\_ imagining it?
4. Yoko has never \_\_\_\_\_ to Omaha!

**Buy/by**

1. *Buy* means to purchase.  
My aunt *buys* new furniture every five years.
2. *By* means near, by means of, or before.  
He walked *right by* and didn't say hello.  
*By* sunset, we had finished the harvest.

**PRACTICE 5** Fill in *buy* or *by*.

1. You can't \_\_\_\_\_ happiness, but many people try.
2. Lee \_\_\_\_\_ sand \_\_\_\_\_ the ton for his masonry business.
3. Please drop \_\_\_\_\_ the video store and \_\_\_\_\_ some blank tapes; I want to tape the football game.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ out his partners, Joe became sole owner of the firm.

**It's/its**

1. *It's* is a contraction of *it is* or *it has*. If you cannot substitute *it is* or *it has* in the sentence, you cannot use *it's*.  
*It's* a ten minute walk to my house.     *It's* been a nice party.
2. *Its* is a possessive and shows ownership.  
Industry must do *its* share to curb inflation.

**PRACTICE 6** Fill in *it's* or *its*.

1. Put the contact lens in \_\_\_\_\_ case, please.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ about time H.T. straightened up the rubble in his room.
3. The company offered some of \_\_\_\_\_ employees an early retirement option.
4. You know \_\_\_\_\_ cold when the pond has ice on \_\_\_\_\_ surface.

**Know/knew/no/new**

1. *Know* means to have knowledge or understanding.  
Carl *knows* he has to finish by 6 P.M.
2. *Knew* is the past tense of the verb *know*.  
I *knew* it.
3. *No* is a negative.  
He is *no* longer dean of academic affairs.

4. *New* means recent, fresh, unused.

**I like your *new* hat.**

### PRACTICE 7

Fill in *know*, *knew*, *no*, or *new*.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ he's \_\_\_\_\_ in town, but this is ridiculous.
2. If I \_\_\_\_\_ then what I \_\_\_\_\_ now, I wouldn't have made so many mistakes when I was young.
3. Abe and Gabe \_\_\_\_\_ that they have \_\_\_\_\_ chance of winning the marathon.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, I don't \_\_\_\_\_ the way to Grandma's house, you hairy weirdo.

### Lose/loose

1. *Lose* means to misplace or not to win.  
**Be careful not to *lose* your way on those back roads.**
2. *Loose* means too large, not tightly fitting.  
**This shirt is not my size; it's *loose*.**

### PRACTICE 8

Fill in *lose* or *loose*.

1. When Ari studies in bed, he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ change from his pockets.
2. Several layers of \_\_\_\_\_ clothing can warm you in winter.
3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ any sleep over tomorrow's exam.
4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ screw, the handle will fall off.

### Past/passed

1. *Past* is that which has already occurred; it is over with.  
**Never let the *past* interfere with your hopes for the future.**
2. *Passed* is the past tense of the verb *to pass*.  
**The wild geese *passed* overhead.**

### PRACTICE 9

Fill in *past* or *passed*.

1. As Jake \_\_\_\_\_ the barn, he noticed a man talking to the reindeer.
2. To children, even the recent \_\_\_\_\_ seems like ancient history.

3. Mia \_\_\_\_\_ up the opportunity to see a friend from her \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This Bible was \_\_\_\_\_ down to me by my mother; it contains records of our family's \_\_\_\_\_.

### Quiet/quit/quite

- Quiet* means silent, still.  
The woods are *quiet* tonight.
- Quit* means to give up or to stop doing something.  
Last year I *quit* drinking.
- Quite* means very or exactly.  
He was *quite* tired after playing handball for two hours.  
That's not *quite* right.

### PRACTICE 10

Fill in *quiet*, *quit*, or *quite*.

- The stone cottage is a \_\_\_\_\_ place in which to study.
- Nora is \_\_\_\_\_ dedicated to her veterinary career.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ your job, even though you aren't \_\_\_\_\_ happy with the working conditions.
- Each day when he \_\_\_\_\_ work, Dan visits a \_\_\_\_\_ spot in the park.

### Rise/raise

- Rise* means to get up by one's own power.  
The past tense of *rise* is *rose*.  
The past participle of *rise* is *risen*.  
The moon *rises* at 9 P.M.  
Daniel *rose* early yesterday.  
He has *risen* from the table.
- Raise* means to lift an object or to grow or increase.  
The past tense of *raise* is *raised*.  
The past participle of *raise* is *raised*.  
*Raise* your right hand.  
She *raised* the banner over her head.  
We have *raised* one thousand dollars.

**PRACTICE 11** Fill in the correct form of *rise* or *raise*.

1. The loaves of bread have \_\_\_\_\_ perfectly.
2. The new mayor \_\_\_\_\_ his arms in a victory salute.
3. Once the sun has \_\_\_\_\_, Pete \_\_\_\_\_ the shades.
4. We all \_\_\_\_\_ as the bride walked down the aisle.

**Sit/set**

1. *Sit* means to seat oneself.  
The past tense of *sit* is *sat*.  
The past participle of *sit* is *sat*.

**Sit up straight!**

**He sat down on the porch and fell asleep.**

**She has sat reading that book all day.**

2. *Set* means to place or put something down.  
The past tense of *set* is *set*.  
The past participle of *set* is *set*.

**Don't set your workout clothes on the dining room table.**

**She set the package down and walked off without it.**

**He had set the timer on the stove.**

**PRACTICE 12** Fill in *sit* or *set*.

1. Please \_\_\_\_\_ your briefcase here. Would you like to \_\_\_\_\_ down?
2. Have they \_\_\_\_\_ in on a rehearsal before?
3. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ the chair by the window and \_\_\_\_\_ down.
4. Sorry, I wouldn't have \_\_\_\_\_ here if I had known you were returning.

**Suppose/supposed**

1. *Suppose* means to assume or guess.  
The past tense of *suppose* is *supposed*.  
The past participle of *suppose* is *supposed*.

**Brad supposes that geology will be interesting.**

**We all supposed she would win first prize.**

**I had supposed Dan would bring his trumpet.**

2. *Supposed* means ought to or should; it is followed by *to*.

You were *supposed* to wash and wax the car.

**Remember:** When you mean *ought to* or *should*, always use the *-ed* ending—*supposed*.

### PRACTICE 13

Fill in *suppose* or *supposed*.

1. Why do you \_\_\_\_\_ wolves howl at the moon?
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ you enjoy reggae.
3. Detective Baker is \_\_\_\_\_ to address the Citizens' Patrol tonight.
4. Wasn't Erik \_\_\_\_\_ to meet us at five?

### Their/there/they're

1. *Their* is a possessive and shows ownership.

They couldn't find *their* wigs.

2. *There* indicates a direction.

I wouldn't go *there* again.

*There* is also a way of introducing a thought.

*There* is a fly in my soup.

3. *They're* is a contraction: *they + are = they're*. If you cannot substitute *they are* in the sentence, you cannot use *they're*.

If *they're* coming, count me in.

### PRACTICE 14

Fill in *their*, *there*, or *they're*.

1. If \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ on time, we will leave without them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ two of the most amusing people I know.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ are two choices, and \_\_\_\_\_ both risky.
4. Two mail carriers left \_\_\_\_\_ mail bags \_\_\_\_\_ on the steps.
5. The motorcycles roared \_\_\_\_\_ way into town.
6. Don't worry about \_\_\_\_\_ performance in the race because \_\_\_\_\_ both tough.

## Then/than

1. *Then* means afterward or at that time.

First we went to the theater, and *then* we went out for a pizza and champagne.  
I was a heavyweight boxer *then*.

2. *Than* is used in a comparison.

She is a better student *than* I.

### PRACTICE 15

Fill in *then* or *than*.

1. First, Cassandra kicked off her shoes; \_\_\_\_\_ she began to dance.
2. Jupiter's diameter is eleven times larger \_\_\_\_\_ Earth's.
3. If you're **more** familiar with this trail \_\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_ you should lead the way.
4. Fran lived in Chicago \_\_\_\_\_; now she lives in Los Angeles.

## Through/though

1. *Through* means in one side and out the other, finished, or by means of.

The rain came *through* the open window.  
*Through* practice, I can do anything.

2. *Though* means although. Used with *as*, *though* means as if.

*Though* he rarely speaks, he writes terrific letters.  
It was *as though* I had never ridden a bicycle before.

### PRACTICE 16

Fill in *through* or *though*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ study and perseverance, Charelle earned her degree in three years.
2. Dee usually walks to work \_\_\_\_\_ she sometimes rides the bus.
3. Julio strode \_\_\_\_\_ the bank as \_\_\_\_\_ he owned it.
4. Clayton is a Texan \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## To/too/two

1. *To* means toward.

We are going *to* the computer lab.

*To* can also be combined with a verb to form an infinitive.

Where do you want *to go* for lunch?



- Too* means also or very.  
Roberto is going to the theater *too*.  
They were *too* bored to stay awake.
- Two* is the number 2.  
There are *two* new nursing courses this term.

### PRACTICE 17

Fill in *to*, *too*, or *two*.

- Please take my daughter \_\_\_\_\_ the movies \_\_\_\_\_.
- Dan, \_\_\_\_\_, took \_\_\_\_\_ hours \_\_\_\_\_ complete the exam.
- Luis went \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa State for \_\_\_\_\_ semesters.
- This curry is \_\_\_\_\_ hot \_\_\_\_\_ eat and \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ resist.

### Use/used

- Use* means to make use of.  
The past tense of *use* is *used*.  
The past participle of *use* is *used*.  
Why do you *use* green ink?  
He *used* black-and-white film for the project.  
I have *used* that brand of cell phone myself.
- Used* means in the habit of or accustomed to; it is followed by *to*.  
I am not *used* to getting up at 4 A.M. They got *used* to the good life.

**Remember:** When you mean *in the habit of* or *accustomed to*, always use the *-ed* ending—*used*.

### PRACTICE 18

Fill in *use* or *used*.

- Marie \_\_\_\_\_ to drive a jalopy that she bought at a \_\_\_\_\_ car lot.
- We will \_\_\_\_\_ about three gallons of paint on this shed.
- Can you \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ laptop?
- Pam \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a pick to strum her guitar.

### Weather/whether

- Weather* refers to atmospheric conditions.  
In June, the *weather* in Spain is lovely.

2. *Whether* implies a question.  
*Whether or not you succeed depends on you.*

**PRACTICE 19** Fill in *whether* or *whether*.

1. In fine \_\_\_\_\_, we take canoe rides on the lake.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ or not you like Brazilian food, you'll love this dish.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ person never said \_\_\_\_\_ or not it would snow.
4. In 1870 a national \_\_\_\_\_ service was established.

**Where/were/we're**

1. *Where* implies place or location.  
*Where have you been all day?*
2. *Were* is the past tense of *are*.  
*We were on our way when the hurricane hit.*
3. *We're* is a contraction: *we + are = we're*. If you cannot substitute *we are* in the sentence, you cannot use *we're*.  
*Since we're in the city, let's go to the zoo.*

**PRACTICE 20** Fill in *where*, *were*, or *we're*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ going to Hawaii \_\_\_\_\_ the sun always shines.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ you standing \_\_\_\_\_ we agreed to meet?
3. There \_\_\_\_\_ two high-rise apartment houses \_\_\_\_\_ the ballpark used to be.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ determined to attend college though we don't yet know \_\_\_\_\_.

**Whose/who's**

1. *Whose* implies ownership and possession.  
*Whose term paper is that?*
2. *Who's* is a contraction of *who is* or *who has*. If you cannot substitute *who is* or *who has*, you cannot use *who's*.  
*Who's knocking at the window?*  
*Who's seen my new felt hat with the red feathers?*

**PRACTICE 21** Fill in *whose* or *who's*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ convertible is this?
2. Tanya, \_\_\_\_\_ in my history class, will join us for dinner.
3. We need someone in that position \_\_\_\_\_ dependable, someone \_\_\_\_\_ abilities have already been proven.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ biology textbook is this?

**Your/you're**

1. *Your* is a possessive and shows ownership.  
*Your knowledge astonishes me!*
2. *You're* is a contraction: *you + are = you're*. If you cannot substitute *you are* in the sentence, you cannot use *you're*.  
*You're the nicest person I know.*

**PRACTICE 22** Fill in *your* or *you're*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ sitting on \_\_\_\_\_ hat.
2. When \_\_\_\_\_ ready to begin \_\_\_\_\_ piano lesson, we'll leave.
3. Let \_\_\_\_\_ adviser help you plan \_\_\_\_\_ course schedule.
4. When \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ friends, \_\_\_\_\_ a different person.

**Personal Look-Alikes/Sound-Alikes List**

In your notebook, keep a list of look-alikes and sound-alikes that *you* have trouble with. Add words to your list from corrected papers and from the exercises in this chapter; consider such pairs as *adapt/adopt*, *addition/edition*, *device/devise*, *stationery/stationary*, and so forth.

First, write the word you used incorrectly; then write its meaning or use it correctly in a sentence, whichever best helps you remember. Now do the same with the word you meant to use.

Word	Meaning
1. <u>though</u>	<u>means although</u>
<u>through</u>	<u>We hiked through the woods.</u>
2. _____	_____
_____	_____

**PRACTICE 23** Write a paragraph using as many of the look-alikes and sound-alikes as possible. Exchange paragraphs with a classmate and check each other's work.

## **PRACTICE 24 REVIEW**

The following essay contains a number of look-alike/sound-alike errors. Proof-read for these errors, writing the correct word above the line.

### *Isabel Allende*

(1) Possibly the best-known female writer of Latin-American literature, Isabel Allende has survived many political and personal tragedies. (2) Most of those events have found there way into her books. (3) Born in 1942, Allende was raise by her mother in Chile after her parents' divorce. (4) When her uncle, President Salvador Allende, was killed during a military coup in 1973, she fled. (5) For the next seventeen years, she lived in Venezuela, were she was unable to find work and felt trapped in a unhappy marriage.

(6) One day, learning that her grandfather was dying in Chile, Allende began to write him a long letter; that letter grew until it became her first novel. (7) Still her most famous book, *The House of the Spirits* established Allende's style of writing, which combines political realism and autobiography with dreams, spirits, an magic. (8) The novel, which was banned in Chile, was translated into more then twenty-five languages and in 1994 was made into a movie.

(9) Buy 1988, Allende had divorced, moved to northern California, remarried, and written her fourth novel, *The Infinite Plan*, which is her second husband's story. (10) Her next book traced the profound affect on Allende of the death of her daughter, Paula. (11) The book *Paula*, like *The House of the Spirits*, was suppose to be a letter, this time too her daughter, who lay in a coma in a Madrid hospital.

(12) After *Paula* was published, Allende stopped writing for several years. (13) She started again in 1996, on January 8, the same day of the year that she had begun every one of her books. (14) The result was *Aphrodite*, a nonfiction book about food and sensuality that was quiet different from Allende's passed work.

(15) With renewed energy to right again, Allende spun the tale of an independent woman who leaves her home in Chile to move to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. (16) Two novels, *Daughter of Fortune* and *Portrait in Sepia*, complete her story.

(17) Isabel Allende is famous for been a passionate storyteller who's writing captures both the Latin-American and the universal human experience. (18) As the first Latina to write a major novel in the mystical tradition, she not only created a sensation, but she paved the way for other female Hispanic writers, including Julia Alvarez and Sandra Cisneros.



### Exploring Online

[http://webster.commnet.edu/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/spelling\\_add2.htm](http://webster.commnet.edu/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/spelling_add2.htm) Graded look-alikes quiz. Test your skills.

[http://webster.commnet.edu/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/spelling\\_add4.htm](http://webster.commnet.edu/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/spelling_add4.htm) Interactive spelling and look-alikes test.

# Writers' Workshop

## Discuss a Time When Diverse People Were United

Some writers are naturally good spellers, and others are not. If you belong to the latter group, this unit has given you some techniques and tools for overcoming your spelling problems.

In your group or class, read this student's essay, aloud if possible. Underline the ideas and sentences you find especially effective. If you spot any spelling errors, correct them.

### A Community of Fishermen

(1) Although City Island is probably best known for its seafood restaurants, it's just before dinnertime that I most enjoy the island. That's when the fishing boats leave: The *Riptide*, *Apache*, and *Daybreak* all cruise out of their slips and head for the hot spot of the day. These large vessels can pack up to a hundred passengers on board, and the crowd is usually more diversified than all the fish being hoisted over the railing.

(2) Anglers from all walks of life compete for the prize money that is awarded for catching the biggest fish. The anglers are black, white, brown, and yellow, but they leave any thoughts about their skin pigment back at the dock alongside their problems. What these fishermen do for a living, where they come from, and what kind of car they'll drive home that night are concepts of little importance. The things that count now are catching big fish, learning new tricks to catch them, and above all, having a good time. Men of all different races and religions now have something in common; they are all fishermen.

(3) The passengers might be culturally diverse, but with the exception of an occasional girlfriend or wife, they're all men. Grandfathers show sons and grandsons the ropes. Veterans give tips to the newer guys next to them, and as they hold their fishing poles over the side of the boat, elbow to elbow, they link together in a chain of masculinity.

(4) It's an eight-hour trip, and with a couple of hours down, you'll actually observe the passengers coming together. Almost everyone is drinking beer, and everyone likes to team up and tease landlubbers who get seasick. Salty old men swap fish tales and complain that the fishing is not what it used to be. Fathers talk shop and exchange jokes and business cards. Younger men play pranks, like slipping bait into an old-timer's