

Word Usage--10 Common Mistakes

Mistakes are often made with word usage, "Which one do I chose?" Unfortunately, it's not something that can be remedied with spellchecker.

Here is a list of ten common word usage mistakes with explanations and examples of proper use:

(1) **There vs. Their vs. They're**

- * **There** is an indication of location.
Example: I want to see that book over there.
- * **Their** is a possessive version of *they*.
Example: They took their dog to the groomer.
- * **They're** is a contraction, short for *they are*.
Example: They're going to the theatre tonight.

(2) **A lot vs. Allot vs. Alot**

- * **A lot** is an indication of amount.
Example: I have a lot of laundry to do.
- * **Allot** means *to distribute*.
Example: I will allot you two cookies.
- * **Alot** is not a word.

(3) **I.e. vs. E.g.**

- * **I.e.** means *in other words*.
Example: Writing more articles increases your website traffic. I.e., it will bring you more exposure.
- * **E.g.** means *for example*.
Example: I have a lot of chores to do (e.g., laundry, dishes, vacuuming, dusting, etc.) today.

(4) **To vs. Too vs. Two**

- * **To** is a function word to indicate relative position.
Example: We took the dog to the vet.
- * **Too** can indicate *excessiveness* or *in addition to*.
Example: The chili was too spicy.
Example: I would like to go too.
- * **Two** is the number 2.
Example: I want two cookies.

(5) **Its vs. It's**

- * **Its** is the possessive version of *it*.
Example: Its door came off the hinges.
- * **It's** is a contraction, short for *it is*.
Example: It's a beautiful day.

(6) **You're vs. Your**

- * **You're** is a contraction, short for *you are*.
Example: You're the nicest person I've ever met.
- * **Your** describes the possessor as someone else.
Example: Your shirt is very wrinkled.

(7) **Loose vs. Lose**

- * **Loose** is an adjective, the opposite of *tight* or *contained*.
Example: I have loose change in my pocket.
- * **Lose** is a verb that means *to suffer the loss of*.
Example: I hope I don't lose my car keys.

(8) **Choose vs. Chose**

- * **Choose** is a present tense verb meaning *to select*.
Example: I choose to eat healthy foods.
- * **Chose** is a past tense verb meaning *to select*.
Example: I chose to eat healthy foods.

(9) **Effect vs. Affect**

- * **Effect** is usually a noun meaning *result*.
Example: The effect of increased traffic to your website is directly related to the number of articles you produce for syndication.
- * **Affect** is usually a verb meaning *to influence*.
Example: I hope this training series will affect you in a positive way.

(10) **Know vs. No vs. Now**

- * **Know** is usually a verb meaning *to understand*.
Example: I know you are not coming to the movie.
- * **No** is a negative reply, refusal or disagreement.
Example: There is no problem with the car.
- * **Now** is usually an adverb meaning *at the present time or moment*.
Example: Now I can easily write and market my articles.