#### **Commonly Confused Words**



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# There, Their, and They're

The words there, their, and they're are often confused and misused. Here's what you need to know.

## there

Use *there* to refer to a place or to the existence of something.

# Examples:

Ann found her book over there, behind the oak tree.

There will be free ice cream at Scoops's grand opening.

#### their

Use *their* to indicate that something belongs to certain people, animals, or things.

#### Examples:

The Goldbergs brought **their** new baby home today.

The dogs played with their tennis balls all afternoon.

# they're

Use *they're* as a contraction of "they are."

## Examples:

I love hanging out with Kim and Carli. They're so funny!

Ben and Gabriel say **they're** trying out for the team.

**Directions:** Underline the correct boldface word in each sentence below.

- 1. The Smiths have lived in Detroit for three years, but there/their/they're moving back to Seattle next month.
- 2. Megan already left for the party. Lilly is meeting her there/their/they're after dinner.
- 3. Anthony carried the twins' birthday cake, and I carried there/their/they're presents.
- 4. Tyler said there/their/they're are four kittens sleeping in a box under the porch.

Directions: Write either there, their, or they're on each blank in the paragraph below.

Yesterday, my little sisters challenged me to a game of Scrabble. Usually, I avoid playing games with them because \_\_\_\_\_\_ terrible cheaters. But \_\_\_\_\_\_ pleading wore me down, and it was raining, so I agreed.

We set up the board on the dining room table, removing Princess, the cat that likes to sleep \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Then we picked our tiles. \_\_\_\_\_\_ are only two blank tiles, and I got them both! Things were looking good.

The girls obviously didn't like \_\_\_\_\_\_ tiles. They kept trying to sneak \_\_\_\_\_\_ hands into the tile bag for new ones. \_\_\_\_\_\_ is not much else to say about the game, except that it went on and on and on. When it finally ended and my sister Lisa won, I was more than ready to get out of \_\_\_\_\_\_.