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Ten Words You Need To Stop Misspelling

by The Oatmeal <http://theoatmeal.com>

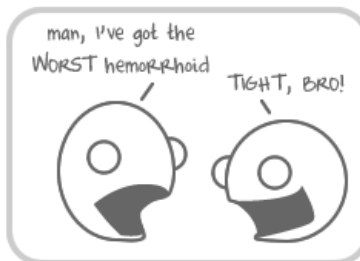
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Lose
↓
Opposite of win

Loose
↓
Not tight

Pretend the extra O is a hemorrhoid on the word. Hemorrhoids are never tight.



Weird
↓
e then i

Not wierd

Every time you spell it this way, a dolphin gets run over by a jet ski.

Remember it like this:

We ... ir ... d =
We ... are (ir) ... dangerous (d)
to those dumb, dirty dolphins.



Their

Their is possessive, meaning it owns something.



In this case, *their* is referring to the neighbors who own a cow.

They're

They're is a contraction for "they are."



In this case, *they're* means "they are."

There

There refers to a place or idea.

Use this form if you're unsure.



In this case, *there* is referring to a location.



It can also refer to something more abstract:

There are many reasons to discipline a cow. For starters, a cow who eats rancid casserole will later become a host for alien parasites.

Your You're

These both use the same rules as "their" and "they're."

Your is possessive. In other words, you own something.

Your new baby alien loves to cuddle, but he keeps crapping in your refrigerator at night.

This is referring to **your** alien and **your** refrigerator.

You're is a contraction of "you are."

You're definitely cleaning out the fridge tomorrow morning, assuming that little beast can't keep his bowels in check.

This translates to "you are definitely cleaning..."



It's



This is a contraction for
it is or *it has*.

If you can replace *it's* with *it is* or *it has*,
then use *it's* in your sentence.

For example:

It's not fair that Randy gets to ride a wolverine
to school, but I have to ride this stupid manatee!

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apostrophes?

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The wolverine knows only death,
pain, and slaughter.
Also, *its* thick, black fur is good for
exfoliating the thighs during a long ride.



Using "it's" in this case would result in:

"Also, *it is* thick black fur is good for..."
which is wrong and anyone that does this
deserves to be mauled by a wolverine.

Its



This is indicating
possession.

Use this when one
thing owns another.

For example:

Why working from
home is both
awesome
and
HORRIBLY

Definitely

There is no A in "definitely."

To help you remember, use this:

*If you put an A in
"definitely," then you're
definitely an A-hole.*

Effect Affect

Most of the time *effect* is a noun and *affect* is a verb.

If you're unsure, try substituting a different verb and see if it works.

As a child, he was *affected* by his parents.
 As a child, he was ~~affected~~ eaten by his parents.

A verb works here so you should use "affected."



C'MERE, RANDALL
 I want to ingest you, just like I did your obnoxious parakeet



You ate him?!!
 But he sang only of love and beauty!
 You're a monster, Dad!

Weather



Snow, rain, sunshine, typhoons.
 All that crap.

I'm the sun, I make super happy sunshine!

Also, one day I'll explode and burn you all alive like the miserable little sausages that you are!



Whether



Whether is used in this way:

Your correct usage of this word will determine whether or not I kick you in the hemorrhoids.

Nothing gets a point across like a solid kick to the hemmies.

A lot



Always leave a space here.

Remember, there's a lot of space in outer space.

Alot is not a word.

You don't write *alittle*, *abunch*, *acantaloupe*, *aporkchop*
 So don't write *alot*.

Then

is used for time.

First I stole a panda bear, then we drank malt liquor together.

The sequence of actions indicates time: first stealing the panda, and then drinking.

Than

is used for comparison.

I'm much better at holding my liquor than a panda bear.

This is comparing a panda's drinking ability with your own, so you should use "than."



The End.

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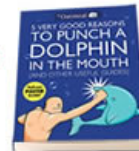
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i.e.
in a sentence

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