

They're, Their, or There

GRAMMAR LESSON



The English language has three words that sound the same, but are actually quite different.

There is a contraction of *they are*. When you write *they're*, ask yourself if you can substitute *they are*. If not, you have not chosen the correct word.

EXAMPLE: I don't know where *they're* going. ("they are" can be substituted for "they're")

Their and *theirs* are possessive pronouns similar to *her/hers* and *our/ours*. Remember that possessive pronouns do not take apostrophes, as shown in the examples below.

EXAMPLE: They eat *their* hamburgers with ketchup.

EXAMPLE: I think the car is *theirs*.

There is the most common of these three words, and it can act as an adverb, noun, or pronoun. A helpful hint is that *here* is buried inside *there*. The phrase "here and there" might help you remember that THERE is the word sometimes used to point to a place.

EXAMPLE: *There* goes the ball – out of the park!

EXAMPLE: Put it right *there*.

EXAMPLE: *There* are not many home runs hit quite like that.

Practice. Complete the following sentences with *they're*, *their*, or *there*.

Example: Do you know what their phone number is?

1. _____ dog is an annoying pet.
2. _____ once was a bird called a Dodo Bird.
3. My aunt and uncle are arriving tomorrow. _____ coming from California.
4. Many years ago, _____ were no cars, so people travelled by horse and carriage.
5. My neighbors bought a second car. _____ new one is dark blue.
6. Surprisingly, both of _____ cars are dark blue.
7. If you look over _____, you will see the beautiful sunset.
8. Have you seen where _____ building that new road?
9. I think _____ address is 1171 Newland Road.
10. _____ are people waiting outside.
11. Suddenly _____ was a loud bang.
12. There goes _____ train.
13. Where is the ball? Oh, _____ it is.
14. _____ you are. Your mother has been looking for you everywhere!
15. _____ once was a little girl who was very poor.
16. The students are reading _____ books over there.