

# Using the Right Word 1

*Write Source* lists many commonly misused words. (See page 536.)

## Examples

An iguana is one type of lizard.

A llama has valuable wool.

Mom will **accept** no pets in the house **except** her cat.

Abe Lincoln read **aloud**.

Scruffy is not **allowed** on the couch.

Do you have **a lot** of homework?

I'm **already** finished eating.

Tim is **all ready** for the game.

## Directions

Cross out any underlined word that is incorrect and write the correct word above. Do not change any correct words.

- 1 In 1849, an brave pioneer family, the Rikers, began a long trip to  
2 Oregon. Janette, her two brothers, and her father thought they were  
3 already for their journey. However, in Montana, the Riker men went  
4 hunting one day and never returned. Janette, who hadn't been aloud to  
5 go on the hunt, was left alone in the wilderness—except for the family's  
6 ox. The weather was already cold, and Janette had to except the fact  
7 that she couldn't cross the Rocky Mountains by herself. Amazingly, she  
8 built a hut, chopped alot of wood for making fires, and even killed the  
9 ox for meat. With wild animals outside her door, Janette must have  
10 talked allowed to herself in her tiny home. In the spring, some Native  
11 Americans found Janette alive and took her to Oregon.

# Using the Right Word 2

Review the following word pairs and see *Write Source* pages 544 and 546.

## Examples

There's a **hole** in my sock.  
Dad can eat a **whole** pizza!

We're leaving in one **hour**.  
**Our** lunches are packed.

**It's** a good book.  
**Its** cover is interesting.

I **knew** all the answers.  
Here's a **new** box of crayons.

Tie a tight **knot**.  
That's **not** tight enough.

**Lay** your books down.  
Mom needs to **lie** down.

**Lead** is a metal.  
**Lead** the exercises today.

I **led** them yesterday.

## Directions

Write the correct choice on the line above each set of parentheses.

- European settlers entered a whole \_\_\_\_\_ world when they  
came to America. They \_\_\_\_\_ that life would \_\_\_\_\_ be easy.  
(*knew, new*) (knot, not)
- Native Americans told \_\_\_\_\_ earliest forefathers to put a small  
fish in the \_\_\_\_\_ with the seeds when planting corn. This idea  
usually \_\_\_\_\_ to a bigger harvest.  
(*hour, our*) (hole, whole) (lead, led)
- Pioneer women spent \_\_\_\_\_ making clothing.  
(*hours, ours*)
- Rope making and \_\_\_\_\_ tying were also important pioneer skills.  
(*not, knot*)
- Pioneers' dishes made of pewter contained tin and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*led, lead*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ easy to see why pioneers had many skills.  
(*Its, It's*)
- Children would \_\_\_\_\_ quilts on top of corn-shuck mattresses  
and \_\_\_\_\_ down to sleep.  
(*lay, lie*) (lay, lie)

# Using the Right Word 3

Be sure you use the right words. (See *Write Source* pages 554 and 556.)

## Examples

Don't **waste** food.

Tie the scarf around your **waist**.

**Where** are you going?

Don't **wear** your hat indoors.

Decide **whether** to walk or ride.

The **weather** is hot.

That's the boy **who** runs fast.

Dry the clothes **that** are wet.

The shirt, **which** is new, is ripped.

**Who** made this?

For **whom** did you make it?

**You're** shivering.

**Your** lips are blue.

**Whose** books are these?

**Who's** coming to dinner?

## Directions

Cross out any underlined word that is incorrect and write the correct word above. Do not change any correct words.

- 1 If your going hiking, remember to take along you're map and a
- 2 compass. The map can tell you wear you are, and a compass can show you
- 3 weather you are headed in the right direction. Don't waist energy carrying
- 4 unnecessary stuff. Take plenty of water and nutritious snacks, which will
- 5 give you extra energy. Check the whether forecast so that you know what
- 6 to where. If it's warm at first, tie a jacket around you're waste and wear
- 7 it when the temperature drops. Always expect the unexpected. Someone
- 8 who's compass is broken can tell his or her direction by the sun and the
- 9 stars, or by how moss grows on trees. Will you be a hiker whose prepared
- 10 on the trail, or one whom ends up hungry, cold, and lost? It's up to you.

# Using the Right Word 4

Many words are commonly misused. (See *Write Source* pages 550 and 552.)

## Examples

**Raise** the flag.

The sun's **rays** are hot.

The answer is **right**.

**Write** me a note.

We **rowed** the boat.

Mom **rode** on a motorcycle!

The **road** is icy.

You **seem** tired.

The **seam** is ripped open.

**Sit** next to me.

Just **set** the glass there.

Mom will **sew** the seam.

We will **sow** corn seeds.

Water plants **so** they'll grow.

The artists painted a winter **scene**.

Have you **seen** my glasses?

### Directions

Write the correct choice above each set of parentheses in the following paragraph.

- 1 Grandpa's farm made a perfect country \_\_\_\_\_ as we arrived  
(*seen, scene*)
- 2 for our visit. The sun's \_\_\_\_\_ made us squint as we turned up the  
(*rays, raise*)
- 3 bumpy dirt \_\_\_\_\_ to the house. Grandpa knew everything,  
(*rode, road*)
- 4 it \_\_\_\_\_ to us. He knew when to \_\_\_\_\_ his fields and when  
(*seemed, seamed*) ( *sew, sow, so* )
- 5 to \_\_\_\_\_ on the porch, rocking. That's when we'd \_\_\_\_\_ our  
(*set, sit*) ( *set, sit* )
- 6 chairs close to his and listen to his stories. "Why, I \_\_\_\_\_ a horse  
(*rode, road*)
- 7 five miles to school! Sometimes, she'd try to buck me off \_\_\_\_\_  
(*sew, sow, so*)
- 8 she could run to the warm barn. Yes, I learned to read and \_\_\_\_\_  
(*rite, write, right*)
- 9 while shivering." After hearing the stories, we \_\_\_\_\_ the old boat  
(*rode, road, rowed*)
- 10 in the pond. Grandpa told us what crops he used to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*rays, raise*)

# Using the Right Word 5

Check the list of commonly misused words in *Write Source* (see pages 548 and 550).

## Examples

**Pain** hurts.

The **pane** of glass broke.

The **past** is over.

I **passed** the runner.

Our **principal** teaches sometimes.

The Golden Rule is a fine **principle**.

Find a **pair** of socks.

Eat this ripe **pear**.

Let's **pare** the apples.

The **plane** flew overhead.

Dad likes **plain** food.

War is the opposite of **peace**.

Have a **piece** of melon.

## Directions

Replace any underlined word that is incorrect with the correct word. The first one has been done for you.

*principal*

1. The principle of our school is a Boy Scout leader. At each hobby fair in the passed, Mr. Fuhrman had an exhibit explaining the principal of natural navigation. His directions for finding one's way by using a stick as a sundial were very plane. This year, he will tell us how to make a pare of moccasins out of birch bark.
2. There will be no piece around Ms. Keller's baking booth. Last year, no one passed that exhibit without tasting a peace of fruit pizza. She also will be showing how to pare all sorts of fruit, including pears.
3. Then there's the gym teacher's "no pane, no gain" weight-lifting booth. He'll show us how to get a pear of biceps even a bodybuilder would envy.
4. The art teacher's model plain has pilots behind a tiny pain of plastic.

# Using the Right Word 6

Review the commonly misused words on *Write Source* pages 542 and 544.

## Examples

He **doesn't** dance.

We **don't** dance.

My paper has **fewer** errors today. I have **less** homework than you do.

You look **good** in blue.

She sings **well**.

The **heel** of my foot is sore.

I wish it would **heal**.

Come **here**.

Did you **hear** me?

## Directions

Write the correct choice on the line above each set of parentheses.

- The United States \_\_\_\_\_ have a monopoly on tornadoes.  
(*doesn't, don't*)
- Britain has \_\_\_\_\_ twisters per year, but it's a smaller country.  
(*fewer, less*)
- Scientists find that people in the United States are \_\_\_\_\_ likely to experience a tornado than people in Britain.  
(*less, fewer*)
- Low pressure and rapidly rising warm air create a \_\_\_\_\_ chance for a damaging funnel of wind to form.  
(*good, well*)
- So \_\_\_\_\_ ignore a tornado warning.  
(*doesn't, don't*)
- If you ever \_\_\_\_\_ a tornado siren, you would do \_\_\_\_\_ to take cover immediately.  
(*here, hear*) ( *good, well* )
- A serious tornado causes \_\_\_\_\_ damage than a hurricane does.  
(*fewer, less*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ in this country, tornadoes are common in the Midwest.  
(*Hear, Here*)
- After damaging storms, injured people may take time to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*heel, heal*)

# Using the Right Word 7

Learn to use the following words correctly in your writing. (See *Write Source* pages 538 and 540.)

## Examples

The **bear** growled.  
Amy's **bare** legs were cold.

The oak **board** is strong.  
Sue is **bored** with TV.

The bike's **brake** sticks.  
**Break** the cookie in half.

Please **bring** me the shovel.  
Then **take** this rake to Jim.

Just walk **by** the store.  
Don't **buy** another CD.

I **can** run fast.  
**May** I have more cake?

## Directions

Cross out any underlined word that is used incorrectly and write the correct word above it.

- 1        Although brown bears are the most common bears on earth, the
- 2        polar bare may survive farther north in the harsh ice and snow of the
- 3        Arctic. Under its thick, white fur, the animal's bare skin is black. The
- 4        sun's rays are absorbed buy the dark skin. The polar bear's fur, made
- 5        up of hollow hairs, traps the warmth. Buy its huge size, you may have
- 6        guessed this bear's other secret to keeping warm—a thick layer of
- 7        fat. A polar bear's keen sense of smell can bring it to prey as far away
- 8        as 30 miles! A bear waiting next to a hole in the ice may look board
- 9        or lazy, as it waits for nature to take a seal for supper. When the ice
- 10       begins to brake up in the spring, a bare may end up adrift on an ice
- 11       floe. This is no problem because polar bears are great swimmers.



# Using the Right Word 8

*Write Source* offers lists of commonly misused words (see pages 552 and 554).

## Examples

Birds **soar** above us.

My ankle is **sore**.

Something **stationary** doesn't move.

I have a box of pretty **stationery**.

The I-beam is made of **steel**.

Scruffy likes to **steal** Boots' food.

**Then** the car stalled.

Cake tastes better **than** squash.

He **threw** the ball.

Walk **through** the park.

It's **their** turn. **They're** up to bat.

See the pitcher over **there**.

## Directions

Cross out any underlined word that is incorrect. Write the correct word above it. Do not change any correct words.

1. Some people ride stationery bikes in there homes. Others visit health clubs where their involved in activities that make muscles soar at first but make them strong as steal later.
2. When people hit the ski slopes, they're spirits sore as they swish downhill with the wind in there faces. Than they say that they like skiing better then working out in a gym.
3. Their is a problem with the exercise craze, however, and that is injury. Doctors see many patients these days who through out there backs or dislocated they're knees while trying to get fit.
4. My mom stays fit by chasing my little brother around all day, and when she's threw with that, she makes a cup of tea. Than she reads, stamps her own cards and stationary, or plays the piano.



# Using the Right Word 9

Use the right words. (See *Write Source* pages 540 and 542.)

## Examples

The **capital** of Maine is Augusta.  
Many **capitol** buildings have domes.

Please **close** the window.  
Old **clothes** are comfortable.

Don't **dye** your hair.  
Amy hopes her goldfish doesn't **die**.

A **desert** gets little rain.  
The **dessert** is chocolate.

The math **course** is hard.  
**Coarse** means "rough".

Don't **do** that.  
The book is **due** today.  
Insects drink **dew**.

Roses have a popular **scent**.  
I **sent** Dad some flowers.  
This candy cost one **cent**!

## Directions

Cross out any underlined word that is incorrect. Write the correct word above it. Do not change any correct words.

- 1 In our social studies coarse last year, we studied our state's
- 2 history. We visited the capital building in our capitol city and a pioneer
- 3 museum. At this living-history museum, we visited several houses,
- 4 and the sent of prairie flowers was in the air. A woman dressed in old-
- 5 fashioned close was making a pudding over an open fire for desert. She
- 6 told us how homemakers in 1845 had to due things differently than
- 7 today. Other women were using walnuts to die yarn to weave into cloth.
- 8 By noon, the do on the fields had dried, and the sun was hot. We had
- 9 to walk everywhere, and the dusty roads felt like crossing a dessert.
- 10 Later, we bought postcards for 25 sents and scent them to friends.

# Using the Right Word 10

Check the list of commonly misused words found in *Write Source*. (See pages 546 and 548).

## Examples

I can **learn** to swim.  
Midge will **teach** me.

Don't **lose** your gloves.  
The pants are too **loose**.

Silver is a precious **metal**.  
Jason earned a gold **medal**.

A **minor** cannot vote.  
That's a **minor** problem.  
The **miner** works underground.  
The boat is missing an **oar**.  
Sit here **or** there.  
Iron **ore** is heavy.

## Directions

Write the correct choice on the line above each set of parentheses below.

1. "What did you \_\_\_\_\_ today?" Mom asked us at the dinner table.  
(learn, teach)
2. We shared \_\_\_\_\_ details \_\_\_\_\_ facts from our lessons.  
(miner, minor) (or, ore, oar)
3. It helps you understand something if you \_\_\_\_\_ it to someone else.  
(learn, teach)
4. A gold \_\_\_\_\_ in California in 1849 was called a "forty-niner."  
(minor, miner)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ panned gold from streams. They swirled \_\_\_\_\_  
(Minors, Miners) (loose, lose)  
gravel in water until only gold flakes, grains, or nuggets remained.
6. Usually, gold \_\_\_\_\_ is found in combination with other  
(medal, metal)  
minerals. The combination is called gold \_\_\_\_\_.  
(or, ore, oar)
7. An Olympic \_\_\_\_\_ is either gold, silver, or bronze.  
(metal, medal)
8. You use a paddle in a canoe and an \_\_\_\_\_ in a rowboat.  
(or, ore, oar)
9. Our ginkgo tree may \_\_\_\_\_ all of its leaves overnight.  
(loose, lose)
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ must be with an adult to attend certain movies.  
(miner, minor)

# Using the Right Word Review

This activity reviews some of the commonly misused words you have practiced.

## Directions

Choose the correct word in parentheses to fill in each blank in the sentences below. Be sure to capitalize the first word in a sentence. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. You're going to get wet without your umbrella. (*your, you're*)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ going to England to visit \_\_\_\_\_ uncle who lives \_\_\_\_\_ . (*their, there, they're*)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ time to give the bird \_\_\_\_\_ medicine. (*its, it's*)
4. Our teacher doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ late homework \_\_\_\_\_ when a student is sick. (*accept, except*)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ sister said \_\_\_\_\_ going shopping. (*your, you're*)
6. Cherie \_\_\_\_\_ she needed a \_\_\_\_\_ notebook. (*knew, new*)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the books on my desk, please. (*lay, lie*)
8. Joe told us that \_\_\_\_\_ of people saw the giant meteor last night (*alot, a lot*).
9. There are so many \_\_\_\_\_ piled in my closet that I can't \_\_\_\_\_ the door. (*close, clothes*)
10. I can go to the movie because I have \_\_\_\_\_ finished my homework. (*already, all ready*)

11. If you make a \_\_\_\_\_ in your sleeve, you'll ruin your \_\_\_\_\_ sweater. (*hole, whole*)
12. If I \_\_\_\_\_ to knit, I can \_\_\_\_\_ you how to make a scarf. (*learn, teach*)
13. When the \_\_\_\_\_ splattered all over her, Carla thought she would \_\_\_\_\_ of embarrassment. (*die, dye*)
14. I planned to write \_\_\_\_\_ letter, \_\_\_\_\_ editorial. (*a, an*)

**The Next Step** Write a sentence for each pair of words below. Be sure to use the words correctly.

1. led, lead \_\_\_\_\_

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2. threw, through \_\_\_\_\_

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3. buy, by \_\_\_\_\_

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