



## Correct Me if I'm Wrong: Common Grammar Mistakes

4th Grade Language & Literacy

Common Core Standard L.4.1.g— Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their).

Grammar is important, though we don't usually realize why until funny things happen, or someone gets confused. Whenever someone gives a message to someone else (whether written or spoken), it is given by the **sender** and delivered to the **receiver**. It is the sender's job to make sure a message makes sense to the receiver. In order to clearly deliver a written and/or verbal message, we need to make sure we are using the correct words. Many words are **homophones** (words that sound the same but are spelled differently) or **homonyms** (words that are spelled and sometimes pronounced the same but mean different things).

Let's look at and fix some sentences gone wrong because the wrong spelling or grammar was used.

### Materials:

- Pen or pencil
- This handout printed OR...
- Piece of paper

**Developmental Objectives/Domains:** By completing this activity, you will

- 1.) Develop written and verbal skills in communicating messages effectively.
- 2.) Understand the importance of proper grammar and spelling.
- 3.) Enhance your knowledge of the English language.

### Procedure:

Use the homophones and definitions in the box below to fix the sentences following. If you've printed the handout, simply correct the sentences on the lines provided. If not,

rewrite the sentences correctly on your own sheet of paper. The answer key is provided on the last page, but challenge yourself! Finish the worksheet first before you check it.

*Homophones:*

- **Your (adj)**—possessive adjective indicating that one or several things belong to the receiver
- **You're (v)**—a contraction of two words: “you are”
- **There (adv)**—indicating a location of something or someone
- **Their (adj)**—a possessive adjective indicating that one or several things belong to multiple other people
- **They're (v)**—a contraction of two words: “they are”
- **Its (adj)**—possessive adjective indicating that one or several things belong to an object or animal of unspecified gender
- **It's (v)**—a contraction of two words: “it is”
- **Effect (n)**—a result of something that happened
- **Affect (v)**—to have an effect on something
- **Allowed (adj)**—given permission
- **Aloud (adv)**—able to be heard
- **Faze (v)**—to disturb
- **Phase (n)**—a part in a process
- **Accept (v)**—to approve or agree with
- **Except (prep)**—excluding (“all but...”)
- **To (prep)**—in the direction of
- **Too (adv)**—also; more than is reasonable, desirable, or optimal.
- **Two (adj)**—a number indicating a pair

1. Every underlined word in the following sentences is incorrect. Replace them with the correct homophone.

A) If your planning to eat that much candy, just know that your going to feel sick.

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B) There going to the store, but if I go their with them, I will probably get bored.

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C) "Its a Small World" is my favorite ride at Disneyland. It's colors and music make me happy.

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D) I do math problems in my head because I am not aloud to solve them allowed.

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2. The following sentences have at least one incorrect underlined word. Find those incorrect words and replace them with the correct homophone. Leave the correct words as they are.

A) When I look out your back door, I can see you're dogs.

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B) When I get to you're house with your friends, will they bring their dog?

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C) She is rarely phased when people tell her that college is the hardest phase of the educational system.

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3. The underlined words in the following sentences are technically grammatically correct, but they either make the sentence funny, or they can be interpreted another way. Read the sentence and answer the following three questions for each.

A) I saw your friends with Takumi.

- What does this sentence mean?

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

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- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

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B) I know you're students.

- What does this sentence mean?

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

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- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

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C) They began to realize they're mistakes.

- What does this sentence mean?

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

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- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

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D) The old bird digests and regurgitates food for it's young.

- What does this sentence mean?

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

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- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

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Answer key:

1 A) If **you're** planning to eat that much candy, just know that **you're** going to feel sick.

1 B) **They're** going to the store, but if I go **there** with them, I will probably get bored.

1 C) "**It's** a Small World" is my favorite ride at Disneyland. **Its** colors and music make me happy.

1 D) I do math problems in my head because I am not **allowed** to solve them **aloud**.

\*The red words in the bank below are the ones that were incorrect above. Blue were correct above.

2 A) When I look out **your** back door, I can see **your** dogs.

2 B) When I get to **your** house with **your** friends, will they bring **their** dog?

2 C) She is rarely **fazed** when people tell her that college is the hardest **phase** of the educational system.

3 A) I saw your friends with Takumi.

- What does this sentence mean?

**The sender saw friends of the receiver with Takumi.**

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

**you're**

- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

**"I saw you're friends with Takumi" means that the sender saw that the receiver is**

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**friends with Takumi.**

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3 B) I know you're students.

- What does this sentence mean?

**The sender knows that the receivers are all students**

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- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

your

- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

"I know your students" means that the sender is acquainted with the students of

the receiver, whom is a teacher.

3 C) They began to realize they're mistakes.

- What does this sentence mean?

The subjects, "They," began to realize that they themselves are mistakes.

- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

their

- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

"They began to realize their mistakes" means that the subjects, "They," began to

realize that they had made mistakes.

3 D) The old bird digests and regurgitates food for it's young.

- What does this sentence mean?

The old bird digests and regurgitates food because it is young.

- With what homophone can you replace the underlined word?

its

- What does the sentence mean after you've replaced the homophone?

"The old bird digests and regurgitates food for its young" means the old bird

digests and regurgitates food to feed the babies belonging to it.

