

Basic English Review

Unit 12

Word Choice

Objectives

- To recognize misused words in everyday speech and writing
- To learn the proper usage of frequently misused words
- To properly use troublesome words and avoid clichés in written communication

Section 32 Word Blunders

Who's and *Whose*

- *Who's* is the contraction for *who is*.
 - Who's in charge?
 - Who's—contraction for *Who is*—*Who is* in charge?
- *Whose* shows ownership or possession. It is used as a possessive adjective and modifies a noun.
 - Whose car is that?
 - Whose—possessive adjective—modifies the noun *car*

It's and *Its*

- *It's* is the contraction for *it is*.
 - It's our most requested entrée.
 - It's—contraction for *it is*—*It is* our most requested entrée.
- *Its* shows ownership or possession. It is used as a possessive adjective and modifies a noun.
 - My cat likes to chase its tail.
 - its—possessive adjective—modifies the noun *tail*

Section 32 Word Blunders

There, Their, They're

- *There* is almost always used as an adverb.
 - Please meet me there at 3 p.m.
 - there—adverb—modifies the verb *meet*
- *There* sometimes functions as an expletive to introduce a sentence. The true subject follows the verb.
 - There is only one thing I want for my birthday.
 - There—adverb—modifies the verb *is*. The singular form *is* agrees with the singular subject *thing*.

Section 32 Word Blunders

There, Their, They're

- *Their* denotes ownership or possession. It is used as a possessive adjective and modifies a noun.
 - The judge dismissed their claim.
 - their—possessive adjective—modifies the noun *claim*
- *They're* is the contraction for *they are*.
 - They're willing to change seats with us.
 - They're—contraction for *They are*—*They are* willing to change seats with us.

Section 32 Word Blunders

Your and *You're*

- *Your* denotes ownership. It is used as a possessive adjective and modifies a noun.
 - How do you like your new car?
 - your—possessive adjective—modifies the noun *car*
- *You're* is the contraction for *you are*.
 - Janice said you're going to win the dance competition.
 - you're—contraction for *you are*—Janice said *you are* going to win the dance competition.

Word Blunders

- Choose the correct word in parentheses.
 - (There, Their, They're) seats are in the first row.
 - I heard (your, you're) job involves a great deal of travel.
 - (It's, Its) the last day to turn in the assignment.
 - He is someone (who's, whose) advice I value.

Good and Well

- *Good* is almost always an adjective meaning skillful, admirable, or having the right qualities. It describes a noun or pronoun and answers the question *what kind of*.
- She devised a good way to deal with unhappy customers.
 - good—adjective—describes the noun *way*—answers the question *what kind of way*

Good and Well

- *Well* is most often an adverb telling how something is done. It usually modifies a verb and answers the question *how*.
 - Our ski team has done well this year.
 - well—adverb—modified the verb *has done*—answers the question *how*
- *Well* can be used as an adjective to describe someone's health.
 - My father did not feel well today.

Section 32 Word Blunders

In and *Into*

- *In* is a preposition that means within a place. The person or thing is already there.
 - Joshua is relaxing in the hot tub.
 - in—preposition—Joshua is already in the hot tub.
- *Into* is also a preposition, but it means the moving or going from outside to inside.
 - Joanna dove into the pool.
 - into—preposition—shows movement from outside to inside the pool

Almost and Most

- *Almost* is an adverb meaning nearly.
 - My car almost skidded off the icy road.
 - almost—adverb—means nearly
- *Most* is usually an adjective, an adverb, or a pronoun meaning the greatest in number or quality.
 - Meghan gave one of the most powerful performances I have ever seen.
 - most—adverb—means the greatest in quality

Section 32 Word Blunders

Beside and Besides

- *Beside* means to be next to or at the side of something.
 - We had lunch at a picnic table beside the country road.
 - beside—next to or at the side of the country road
- *Besides* means in addition to or extra.
 - What other peripherals besides the external hard drive did you buy?
 - besides—in addition to the external hard drive

Word Blunders

- Choose the correct word in parentheses.
 - (Almost, Most) all the decorations are handmade.
 - I ran (in, into) the house when it started to rain.
 - The car runs (good, well), even though it's ten years old.
 - (Beside, Besides) Randi and Chelsea, who else is going on the ski trip?

Section 32 Word Blunders

Fewer and Less

- *Fewer* is an adjective that refers to items that can be counted. It modifies a plural noun.
 - I used the line for customers with ten or fewer items.
 - fewer—adjective—means a smaller number
- *Less* refers to degree or amount. When used as an adjective, it modifies a singular noun.
 - There was less traffic on the freeway this morning.
 - less—adjective—means a smaller degree amount

Section 32 Word Blunders

Real and Really

- *Real* is an adjective meaning genuine or authentic. It modifies a noun or a pronoun.
 - Linh was of real assistance to me during my illness.
 - real—adjective—modifies the noun *assistance*—means genuine
- *Really* is an adverb that means genuinely, actually, or extremely. It modifies an verb, an adjective, or another adverb.
 - That restaurant is really expensive.
 - really—adverb—modifies the adjective *expensive*—means extremely

Section 32 Word Blunders

To, Too, and Two

- *To* is most often a preposition that is followed by a noun or pronoun in the objective case.
 - My neighbor took me to the doctor.
 - to—preposition—begins a prepositional phrase (*to the doctor*)
- *To* is also used as an infinitive.
 - I'm going to make an appointment with a personal trainer.
 - to—part of the infinitive *to make*—begins an infinitive phrase (*to make an appointment*)

Section 32 Word Blunders

To, Too, and Two

- *Too* is an adverb. It means also, besides, very, or excessively.
 - The test was too hard!
 - too—adverb—modifies adjective *hard*—means excessively or very
- *Two* is a number. It is usually used an adjective that tells how many.
 - The two writers collaborated on a new script.
 - two—adjective—modifies the noun *writers*—number

Section 32 Word Blunders

Then and Than

- *Then* is usually an adverb and means *at that time*. It answers the question *when* of the verb.
 - The candidate then spoke on the issues.
 - then—adverb meaning *at that time*—answers the question *when* of the verb *spoke*
- *Than* is a conjunction. It makes or shows a comparison of two or more people, places, things, concepts, qualities, or activities.
 - Spencer is a better pilot than his father.
 - than—conjunction—shows a comparison of two people, Spencer and his father

Word Blunders

- Choose the correct word in parentheses.
 - Ashleigh has more patience (than, then) I do.
 - Billy eats (fewer, less) hot dogs these days.
 - There was (to, too, two) much background noise, and it was difficult to hear.
 - Let Jeremy sleep; he's (real, really) tired.

Section 32 Word Blunders

Between and Among

- *Between* is used when referring to two people, places, things, concepts, qualities, or activities.
 - She's standing between Shayla and Tyrone.
 - between—refers to two people, Shayla and Tyrone
- *Among* is used when referring to more than two.
 - There is reciprocity among the five state universities.
 - among—referring to more than two things

Like and *As*

- The preposition *like* is followed by a noun or pronoun in the objective case. It means similar to or resembling.
 - He looks like his father.
 - like—preposition—has an object, *father*
- The conjunction *as* introduces a clause.
 - Do as I say.
 - as—conjunction—introduces the clause *as I say*
- *As if* can be used as a conjunction to join clauses.

Section 32 Word Blunders

Lose and *Loose*

- *Lose* is a verb that means to misplace or to fail.
 - After three speeding tickets, do you lose your driver's license?
 - lose—verb
- *Loose* is most often an adjective that modifies a noun or pronoun. It means *free or not restrained*.
 - When I sat down, I realized the chair had a loose leg.
 - loose—adjective—modifies the noun *leg*

Section 32 Word Blunders

Affect and *Effect*

- The verb *affect* means to influence or to change.
 - Smoking and drinking can adversely affect your health.
 - affect—verb—means to influence or change
- *Effect* is used as a noun to mean a result. As a verb, it means *to bring about* or *to cause to happen*.
 - The four-day workweek has had a positive effect on morale.
 - effect—noun—means a result
 - The merger was effected two weeks ago.
 - effected—verb—means brought about

Word Blunders

- Choose the correct word in parentheses.
 - Do you think working two jobs while attending school will (affect, effect) your grades?
 - I want to (lose, loose) some weight to improve my health.
 - She acts (like, as if) she were in charge of the project.
 - The winnings were split (between, among) the 12 co-workers who bought the tickets.

Section 33

Speech Duds

- Avoid speech duds.
- Here are some examples.

Use	Don't Use
can hardly	can't hardly
could have	could of
feel bad	feel badly
kind of	kind of a
opposite	opposite to
with regard to	with regards to