

Basic Grammar References

Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Adverb, Adjective

Noun	Person, Place or Thing
Proper Noun	Person's name, Place's name, or title
Pronoun	Words that replace a noun: I, you, me, he, she, him, her, they, them, their...
Adverb	Words that describe a verb Ex:
Adjective	Words that describe a noun Ex:

Possessive vs. Plural vs. Contraction

its	<i>possessive</i>	its personality
it's	<i>contraction</i>	it is
whose	<i>possessive</i>	Whose shoes are these?
who's	<i>contraction</i>	who is
dogs	<i>plural</i>	The dogs bark.
dog's	<i>possessive</i>	The dog's bone is buried.
dogs'	<i>plural and possessive</i>	The dogs' toys have been stolen.
baby's	<i>possessive</i>	The baby's bottle is full.
babies	<i>plural</i>	The babies are finally sleeping.
babies'	<i>plural and possessive</i>	The babies' soothers have been washed.
your	<i>possessive</i>	Your phone is newer than mine.
you're	<i>contraction</i>	you are

Subject Pronoun		Possessive Adjective	
I	I have a shirt.	My	My shirt is green.
You	You have a book.	Your	Your book is new.
He	He has a pillow.	His	His pillow is soft.
She	She has a dog.	Her	Her dog is small.
It	It has a bone.	Its	Its bone is old.
We	We have a bird.	Our	Our bird is noisy.
You	You have a house.	Your	Your house is big.
They	They have a car.	Their	Their car is slow.

Contraction (informal spelling)	Formal Spelling
won't	
can't	
haven't	
must've	
you're	
don't	
should've	
could've	
isn't	
aren't	
she'd	
he'd	
we'd	
he's	
she's	
hasn't	
they're	
we're	
we'll	
she'll	
he'll	

Then vs. Than

then = time and sequence	than = comparison
Then is usually used as an adverb	Than is a conjunction for making comparisons
<p>Time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was at work then. • Come over this afternoon; I'll be ready then. 	<p>More than less than; less than more than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has less than I can have. • She has more than I have.
<p>Next in time, space, or order; immediately afterward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We saw a movie and then we went out for dinner. • We filled up the car and then began the trip. 	<p>Rather than or rather then?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would rather eat than sleep.
<p>In addition; moreover; beside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The glasses are 100\$, and then there is a sales tax. • First you need a license, and then you can drive. 	<p>Sooner rather than later:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would prefer to eat sooner rather than later.
<p>In that case, accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the weather is bad, then my flight will get cancelled. • If there is heavy traffic, then I might be late. 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is taller than I am. • She can run faster than I can. • Your meal looks better than mine does. • Coca-Cola is better than Pepsi.

Who vs. Whom

Who	Whom
Subject	Object
he and she	him and her
Example: Who wrote the letter? (He wrote the letter.)	Example: We want to know on whom the prank was pulled. (The prank was pulled on him.)

To, Two, and Too

To	Toward a person, place or thing (She went to the park.)
Two	2 (There are two people in the car.)
Too	In addition, or in excess = an additional “o” (He wanted to go too.)

Where, Wear, Were, and We’re

Where	Adverb: place, position, or situation Ex:
Wear	Verb: wear clothing OR wearing out Ex:
Were	Verb: the action of having been (They were out of town at the time.) Ex:
We’re	Contraction: we are Ex:

Hear and Here

Hear (hEAR)	Verb: to perceive sound Ex:
Here	Adverb: in, at, or to this place or position Ex:

There, Their, and They’re

There	Adverb: in, at, or to this place or position Ex:
Their	Possessive – belonging to them Ex:
They’re	Contraction – they are Ex:

Punctuation

Period	.	A period marks the end of a sentence.
Question Mark	?	A question mark indicates the end of a question.
Exclamation Point	!	An exclamation point is used to end a dramatic sentence or statement.
Quotation Marks	“ ”	Quotation marks indicate direct speech; the exact words spoken.
Comma	,	A comma indicates a natural pause in a sentence and separates items on a list.
Colon	:	A colon precedes an explanation or an example of what has gone before, a list, or a quotation.
Semi-colon	;	A semi-colon is used to separate two sentences that are related, lists of items which have several words, or the clauses in a sentence.
Parentheses	()	Parentheses are used to separate extra information from the main sentence or statement.
Dashes	-	Dashes are also used to separate extra information from the main sentence or statement.