

5 Tips for Improving Your On-Line Grammar

You may not have a college degree, but if you want to move up in the world, good verbal and written communication skills can help make it sound like you do. This is so easy if you know just five groups of words and how they're supposed to be used. *(There's a tip about punctuation on the second page too.)*

I'm on social media a few hours a day and I see these errors all the time. The scary part is that I know some of the people making the mistakes are college educated and very successful. At least you're in good company, right?

The proper use of the following five groups of words will work wonders in making a good impression on potential employers, future coworkers and all the other people who might see you on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. Yeah, remember, everybody can see you on the internet!

there	A place , as in, "Over there," or, "Oh, Davison High School? I went to school there." Also remember if the possessive/belonging to version shown next, or the two-words version, shown after that, aren't appropriate, then you should also use this form of the word "there." For example, "how many are there?"
their	Belonging to someone, someplace or something, as in, "It's their fault," or "Mittens and Bullet always kick the litter out of their box." Also notice that in both examples I'm talking about multiple people or cats. If there were just one person or cat, then you would use "his" or "her" instead of "their."
they're	A combination of the two words , "they are," as in "they're moving in" would sound fine if said as, "they are moving in." "I wonder where they're going" also works with "they are." If you aren't sure, see if you can substitute the two words (they are) for the one word "they're." If that works, then "they're" is the right way to do it.

your	Belonging to someone , as in, "that's yours" or "where is your car?"
you're	A combination of the two words , "you are," as in "where do you think you're going" or "you're crazy if you believe that." If you aren't sure, see if you can substitute the two words (you are) for the one word "you're." If that works, then "you're" is correct.



to	Usually a place or direction as in, “I’ll be running to the store after work.”
	If you are writing a sentence and the next two options don’t work well, then use this one. For instance, “how am I going to say this otherwise?” The word “also” doesn’t apply in that sentence, as explained in the next example, and I’m not referring to two items, as explained in the third example.
too	Same as the word “also,” as in, “I’ll be visiting Paris too,” or “I want that one too.”
two	Spells the number “2.” No exceptions.

no	It’s a negative as in “no you can’t, no way, no how.”
know	Refers to your knowledge, as in “what do you know?”

is	Singular connecting verb as in “There is one person,” or, “your tie is crooked.”
are	Plural connecting verb as in “There are two people,” or, “it’s so easy to get lost in this town since there are so many one-way streets.” Since the word “many” means more than one you should use “are” in this last sentence.

Punctuation Tip: When using quotes in your posts, like I did in most of the examples shown above, the quote at the end of the sentence always goes outside the closing punctuation. Check my work and see if I did them all correctly.

This is not everything there is to know about grammar, but as I mentioned above, these common errors are so cringe worthy that it could make the difference of whether (not “weather,” as in rain) or not you get the job or college degree. So it’s a good start in the Business of Life.

Sincerely,

Janet M. Nast.

