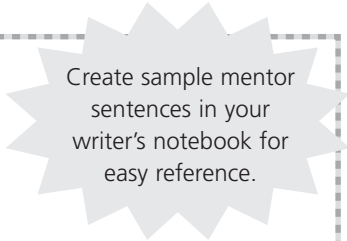


Spelling Reference: Portable Word Wall

Name _____ * = Check *Tricky Words* Reference

A	C	G	J	N	R	U
a	called	gave	jump	name	ran	under
about	came	get	just	never	read	until
add	can	girl		new	ready	up
after	can't	give	K	next	really	us
again	children	go	kids	no*	right	use
all	city	going	kitten	not	run	
also	come	good	know*	now		V
always	could	got		numbers	S	very
an		grade	L		said	
and	D	great	last	O	same	W
another	dad		learned	of	saw	want
any	day	H	left	off	say	was
are*	dear	had	let	often	school	we
around	did	happy	like	old	see	were
as	didn't	has	little	on	set*	what
asked	do	have	live	once	she	when*
at	does	he	long	one	should	where
away	don't	hear	look	only	shouldn't	which
	down	help	looked	or	small	while
B		her	looking	other	so	who
back	E	here	love	our*	some	why
be	each	him		over	story	would
because	even	his	M	own	such	will
been	every	home	mad		sure	with
before		how	made	P		
best	F	however	make	page	T	XYZ
big	family		man	paper	take	yes
boy	father	I	many	people	tell	you
brother	find	l	math	place	than*	your*
but	first	if	me	plant	that	you're*
by*	for*	I'll	men	play	the	
	found	I'm	mother	put	their*	
	friend	if	much	putting	them	
	from	in	must		then*	
		into	my	Q	there*	
		is		question	they	
		isn't		quiet	they're*	
		it			this	
		its*			to*	
		it's*			today	

Spelling Reference: Tricky Words and Homophones



Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Writers need to be especially careful to use homophones correctly or their reader will be confused. These context sentences are examples to help you get started in creating your own list of sentences for homophones and other tricky words. Use a highlighter to identify words in column one that are homophones. Create some sample mentor sentences in your writer's notebook for easy reference.

Some Examples	Function/Purpose	Examples
are our hour	<u>Are</u> is a verb. <u>Our</u> is a possessive pronoun. <u>Hour</u> is a term showing time.	<u>Are</u> you going to help? This is <u>our</u> house. The parade starts in one <u>hour</u> .
buy by bye	<u>Buy</u> means "to purchase." <u>By</u> means "beside or near." <u>Bye</u> is a word to say when you're leaving.	<u>Buy</u> yourself a cool bike helmet. He walked right <u>by</u> me. The toddler waved, " <u>Bye</u> ."
its it's	<u>Its</u> is a possessive pronoun. <u>It's</u> , a contraction, means "it is."	The bike spun <u>its</u> tires. <u>It's</u> a gorgeous day!
know no	<u>Know</u> means "to understand." <u>No</u> , an interjection, means "no."	It's helpful to <u>know</u> your address. <u>No</u> , I don't want to go.
lay lie	<u>Lay</u> means to put or to place. (<i>lay, laid, laid</i>) <u>Lie</u> means to recline. (<i>lie, lay, lain</i>) <u>Lie</u> means to tell a falsehood. (<i>lie, lied, lied</i>)	<u>Lay</u> it down on the table. Go <u>lie</u> down and take a nap. Don't <u>lie</u> . Please tell the truth.
lets let's	<u>Lets</u> means "allowed." <u>Let's</u> , a contraction, means "let us."	Mom <u>lets</u> us drink juice. <u>Let's</u> go to the park!
right write	<u>Right</u> means to be correct or indicates a direction such as the right vs. left side. <u>Write</u> means to put something in print.	Your answer is right. Turn <u>right</u> at the corner. I'll <u>write</u> my phone number for you.
set sit	<u>Set</u> means "to put something someplace." <u>Sit</u> means "to rest on a seat."	<u>Set</u> the apple on the plate. <u>Sit</u> in the first seat.
than then	<u>Than</u> is used when comparing two things. <u>Then</u> , an adverb, indicates a particular time.	She is taller <u>than</u> you. Eat your lunch, <u>then</u> go to recess.
their there they're	<u>Their</u> means "belonging to them." <u>There</u> means "at or in that place." <u>They're</u> , a contraction, means "they are."	<u>Their</u> backyard is huge! Put the book over <u>there</u> . <u>They're</u> going to the library.
to too two	<u>To</u> means "toward." <u>Too</u> means "also" or "more than needed." <u>Two</u> is a number.	They're going <u>to</u> the museum. I ate way <u>too</u> much. We have <u>two</u> spotted puppies.
your you're	<u>Your</u> is a possessive pronoun. <u>You're</u> , a contraction, means "you are."	<u>Your</u> hair is a cool color! <u>You're</u> my best friend.

Other tricky words and homophones to consider: allowed, aloud; ate, eight; aisle, I'll; billed, build; blue, blew; bored, board; creak, creek; ceiling, sealing; chili, chilly; days, daze; dear, deer; doe, dough; discussed, disgust; eight, ate; fair, fare; guest, guessed; here, hear; hole, whole; knead, need; knew, new; knot, not; made, maid; one, won; pear, pair; sea, see; some, sum; son, sun; way, weigh; wait, weight; wood, would.

Create Your Own Resource: Using “ing” Words and Commas

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Commas and “ing” words make terrific partners. They can help you write sentences that are creative, interesting, and filled with strong images for your reader. Adding action, images, and sounds to your sentences with “ing” words and commas makes them come alive!

Mentor Sentences: “ing” phrases followed by a comma

Dragging his feet and hanging his head, Andrew slowly approached his furious mother.

Barking ferociously, the dog raced toward the cat.

You try it!

Find an “ing” phrase followed by a comma in a mentor book.

The sentence I found: _____

I found this in _____ (name of book) by _____
_____ on page _____.

Mentor Sentence: Comma before “ing” phrases

Andrew slowly approached his furious mother, dragging his feet and hanging his head.

The dog raced toward the cat, barking ferociously.

You try it!

Find a comma before an “ing” phrase in a mentor book.

The sentence I found: _____

I found this in _____ (name of book) by _____
_____ on page _____.

Create Your Own Resource: Combining Sentences With a Comma and a Linking Word

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Commas and linking words can help us turn short, choppy sentences into more interesting structures. These tools can help us create sentences that flow smoothly and sound more natural. Linking words often used include *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *yet*, *so*.

Separate Sentences

The dog barked.
The cat raced toward the house.
I did my homework.
I forgot it at home.

Mentor Sentence

The dog barked, and the cat
raced toward the house.
I did my homework, but I
forgot it at home.

You try it!

Search mentor books to find a long sentence that is really two short sentences joined by a linking word and a comma.

The sentence I found: _____

I found this in _____ (name of book) on page _____. The linking word is _____. If this had been written as two separate sentences, it might have looked like:

Sentence 1: _____

Sentence 2: _____

Find Another One!

Search mentor books to find a long sentence that is really two short sentences joined by a linking word and a comma.

The sentence I found: _____

I found this in _____ (name of book) on page _____. The linking word is _____. If this had been written as two separate sentences, it might have looked like:

Sentence 1: _____

Sentence 2: _____

What have you learned about creating longer, more natural sentences out of short sentences?

Create Your Own Resource: Transition Words

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Transition words create connections between ideas and cue the reader about important information.

Purpose	Example of Transition Words
Time/sequence (the order in which something happens)	first, second, third, before, during, after, today, tomorrow, yesterday, until, next, then, as soon as, finally, afterward, earlier, meanwhile, now, since, soon
Show place	above, across, against, along, adjacent to, beyond, by, down, on the opposite side, nearby, to the left of
Compare/contrast (show differences)	however, but, although, on the other hand, similarly, even though, still, though, yet, also, likewise
Conclude, summarize or emphasize a point (the end of the writing is coming)	finally, in conclusion, therefore, in other words, in summary, last
Add information	first, also, and, besides, in addition, for example, next, finally, for instance, specifically, in fact, of course, to illustrate, for instance
Example or illustration	Specifically, for example, in fact, of course, to illustrate, for instance

Transition words I found

**They were located in
(book)**

**The author's purpose in using
them was to**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Create Your Own Resource: Identifying Verb Types

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Review your favorite books for examples of different kinds of verbs

Action Verbs (These are the engines of sentences)

Linking Verbs

Helping Verbs

My favorite mentor books for finding great verbs are: _____

A verb shows action or links the subject to another word in the sentence.

Action Verbs

An **action verb** tells what the subject is doing. Some experts think that the verb is the most important part of speech. They make writing specific and clear.

EXAMPLE: Ice cream *dribbled* down his chin. The worm *slithered* through the grass.

Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** links a subject to a noun or an adjective that comes after the verb.

EXAMPLE: My puppy *is* sweet.

Linking verbs ("be" verbs): is, are, was, were, am, been

EXAMPLE: The painting *looks* strange. (Paintings don't see! Looks doesn't show action in this sentence.)

This sentence means the painting is strange.)

Other linking verbs: feel, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, taste (These words can be action words, too.)

Helping Verbs

Helping verbs come before the main verb and they help state the action or show when the action is taking place.

EXAMPLE: I *will* eat my breakfast. (The verb *will* helps tell about a future action, *will eat*.)

EXAMPLE: We *have been* waiting patiently. (The verbs *have been* help tell that an action is still happening, *have been waiting*.)

Helping verbs: is, are, was, were, am, been, have, had, has, do, did, can, will, could, would, should, must, may, shall.

When the verb is composed of two or more words, it is called a **verb phrase**.

Create Your Own Resource: Understanding Adverbs and Prepositional Phrases

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

An **adverb** tells where (here, there), when (now, later), how (slowly, quickly), and to what degree (very, slightly). An adverb often ends in *-ly*.

A **preposition** is a word that relates a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence. (*She placed the book on the round table.*)

A **prepositional phrase** is a group of words that include a preposition, its object, and any describing words that come in between. (*She placed the book on the round table.*)

Common Prepositions and Phrases

about, above, across, after, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, in front of, inside, instead of, into, like, near, of off, on, on top of, out of, outside, over, since, through, to, toward, under, underneath, until, up, upon, with, within, without

Writers, grab a stack of your favorite books and start searching for adverbs and prepositional phrases. Notice how your favorite authors use adverbs and prepositional phrases to provide readers with strong images.

- Highlight the prepositions above that you found most often in the books you reviewed.
- Which of the authors seemed to use them the most?

Write your favorite sentences that include adverbs or prepositional phrases below, and include where you found them.

_____ (sentence)
_____ (book)
_____ (sentence)
_____ (book)
_____ (sentence)
_____ (book)

- What did you notice about adverbs and prepositions in the books you reviewed?
- After you collect some great examples, challenge yourselves to enliven your own writing with adverbs and prepositional phrases.

See why writers simply ADORE THESE WORDS!

With grins on our faces, my friends and I stood at the edge of the pool. Without saying a word, we grabbed hands and blasted into the cool, crisp water. Around the edges, through the middle, and across the thrashing waves, we played like agile porpoises...

A challenge. Review your writing and find places where you can liven up sentences by beginning with a preposition!

A Guide to Common Irregular Verbs

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

Watch for these verb forms when you are reading. When you see one in print or use it in your own writing, place a tally mark next to the word and tell where you found it.

Present Tense	Past Tense	Tally	Where I saw it or where I used it	Present Tense	Past Tense	Tally	Where I saw it or where I used it
am	was, were			lose	lost		
begin	began			ride	rode		
bite	bit			rise	rose		
break	broke			run	ran		
bring	brought			say	said		
catch	caught			see	saw		
come	came			send	sent		
dive	dove, dived			set	set		
do	did			shake	shook		
draw	drew			shrink	shrank		
drink	drank			sing	sang		
drive	drove			sit	sat		
eat	ate			speak	spoke		
fall	fell			steal	stole		
fly	flew			swim	swam		
forget	forgot			take	took		
get	got			teach	taught		
give	gave			tear	tore		
go	went			tell	told		
grow	grew			think	thought		
hide	hid			throw	threw		
know	knew			understand	understood		
lay (place)	laid			wake	woke, waked		
leave	left			wear	wore		
let	let			write	wrote		
lie (recline)	lay						

Understanding the Parts of Speech

Writer/Researcher _____ Date _____

The English language has thousands of words, but they can all be divided into eight groups called the *parts of speech*.

Writers, after learning about each *part of speech*, include your own examples:

1. **Nouns:** name a person, place, thing, or idea (*child, Carol, lake, book, honesty*)

2. **Pronouns:** take the place of nouns (*I, me, you, she, he, we, you, they, us*)

3. **Verbs:** express action or state of being (*skip, read, is, are, was helping*)

4. **Adjectives:** describe a noun or a pronoun (*awesome, fantastic, cool*)

5. **Interjections:** express strong emotion or surprise
(*Whoa! Look out!*) (*Whoa, look out!*)

6. **Connecting words:** connect words, groups of words, or sentences
(*and, or, because*)

7. **Adverbs and adverb phrases:** tell when, how, and to what degree.
(describe a verb, an adjective, or another adverb)
(*on the roof, quickly, at high noon*)

8. **Prepositions:** relate nouns or pronouns to another word in a sentence
(on the steep roof, in the hidden box, under the low table, to the store)

Copy Editor's Symbols

	<p>Take it out.</p>	<p>I'm a good writer.</p>
	<p>Put something in.</p>	<p>I'm a ^{good} writer. ^</p>
	<p>Put in space.</p>	<p>I'm a good writer. ^ #</p>
	<p>Add a period.</p>	<p>I'm a good writer.</p>
	<p>Make this a capital letter.</p>	<p><u>i</u>'m a good writer.</p>
	<p>Make this capital letter lowercase.</p>	<p>I'm a Good writer.</p>
<p>sp</p>	<p>Spelling error.</p>	<p>I'm a good <u>writer</u>.^{sp}</p>

From the Desk of

From the Desk of

From the Desk of

From the Desk of
