

There, they're, and their are completely different words that all sound the same. They can be easy to confuse if you do not know the rules for using each one. Read the following sections and complete the practice questions to learn the difference between each word.

They're

- It is a combination of they + are
- Used when talking about what "they" (a group of people or things) "are"
- A verb ("action word") might come after; the sentence talks about what "they" are doing
Ex. They're going to study for the SAT today after school.
Ex. They're practicing SAT questions, so that they can get a high score!
- An adjective ("description word") or emotion to describe a group might come after
Ex. They're very tired after going for a run.
Ex. They're a group of fast runners.
Ex. Everybody knows they're the best ones on the team.
- When in doubt... replace "they're" with "they are" to see how it sounds!

Their

- Used when describing things that are owned by a group of people
Ex. My neighbors lost their dog
Ex. Their goal is to find him before it gets dark outside.
- When in doubt... underline the word being owned in the sentence OR replace "their" with "our" to see how it sounds!

There

- "There" might describe "what is/are/was/were"
Ex. There are 20 cookies left in the jar.
Ex. After school, there were only 10 cookies left in the jar.
- Might describe a question in response to "where" something is/somethings are
Ex. Over there!
Ex. Look, it is right there!
- When in doubt... replace "there" with "here" when talking about location to see how it sounds OR look for key words such as is/are/was/were

Now that you have learned the skills for figuring out which there/they're/their to use, complete the following questions and fill in the correct form:

1. Even though she wanted to go see the movie with her friends, she knew _____ was not enough time to see the movie and finish her homework.
2. The boys placed _____ shoes by the front of the door when entering the house.
3. Do you know if _____ is any sugar in the cabinet?
4. The soccer player knew that scoring this goal was his team's last chance at winning against _____ rival school.
5. She looked at the wrapped present and wondered what was in _____.
6. I told my brother to play his guitar over _____, while I study.

7. Do you know if _____ at the movie theater yet?
8. _____ are two options: stay in and study or go out.
9. Your friends are stopping by later to pick up _____ tickets.
10. _____ policy is a full refund if you return the item within 7 days.
11. He lives _____ too.
12. I wonder what type of food _____ will be at the reception.
13. Are we allowed to bring our dog to _____ house?
14. How many people will be _____ ?
15. _____ reputation as football team is excellent.

Answer Key:

1. there
2. their
3. there
4. their
5. there
6. there
7. they're
8. there
9. their
10. their
11. there
12. there
13. their
14. there
15. their