TROUBLESOME WORD PAIRS

- Use the Troublesome Word Pairs worksheet as a guide for words you should know.
- You can Google tricks to remember these. For example, I found “RAVEN” to help remember affect vs effect.

R – Remember
A – Affect is a
V – Verb
E – Effect is a
N - Noun

(U SUALLY- there are exceptions)
(Dictionary.com)

Lie or Lay? This excludes lie meaning to tell an untruth.

HINT: Think reclINE with Lie and pLACE with Lay (Allen, “Laying vs. Lying (Lay vs. Lie)–What’s the Difference?”)

Think: “Lay it on me” (Fogarty).
- Lay requires a direct object; lie does not. You lay something.
- Lay – both past tenses are laid with a D as in direct object (Allen, “Laying vs. Lying (Lay vs. Lie)– What’s the Difference?”).
- A turtle lays its eggs – the eggs are the direct object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT TENSE</th>
<th>PAST TENSE</th>
<th>PAST PARTICIPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIE</td>
<td>LAY</td>
<td>LAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAY</td>
<td>LAID</td>
<td>LAID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Fogarty)

Which or That?

- That is used with defining clauses - information that is necessary to the sentence (Allen, “Which vs. That: How to Choose”).
- Which is used with non-defining information. Its clause can be removed and not effect the meaning of the sentence (Allen, “Which vs. That: How to Choose”).
- “Which” statements are separated by commas.

Who or Whom?

Who is used as the subject of a sentence.
- Use who if the question will be answered with I, he, she, we, they (Allen, “Who vs. Whom”).
  - Who will be meeting me at the airport?
  - Matt will be meeting you at the airport.
- My father will be meeting you at the airport.
- He will be meeting you at the airport.

**Whom** is the object of the sentence.

- Use whom if the question will be answered with me, him, her, us, them (Allen, “Who vs. Whom”).
  - To whom am I giving my textbook?
    - You are giving your textbook to Sara.
    - You are giving your textbook to my sister.
    - You are giving your textbook to her.

**Homonyms – Homophone- Homographs**

- These are also easily confused.
- All right does not have a homophone.

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**GRAMMAR CONVENTIONS**

- **Sentence Fragments**
- **Run-on Sentences**
- **Subject-Verb Agreement**
  - In a sentence, the subject and verb must agree in number.
  - Be aware of how this works in various situations.
  - Be mindful of verb tense agreement as well.
- **Commas in a Series:**
  - Be sure place a comma between items in a series and before the conjunction to avoid confusion. (HESI. 63)
- **Comma in a Compound Sentence:**
  - When 2 sentences are joined using a coordinating conjunction, a COMMA must be placed BEFORE the conjunction.
    - To remember coordinating conjunctions used to combine 2 sentences, think FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so (Traffis).
- **Pronouns:**
  - Pronouns must be used according to their purpose.
    - If the pronoun is the subject of the sentence, use a subject pronoun.
    - If the pronoun is the object of the sentence, use an object pronoun.
    - If the pronoun shows possession, use a possessive pronoun.
  - Pronouns must agree in number and person with the nouns they are replacing.
    - Use a singular pronoun in place of a singular noun
    - Use a plural pronoun in place of a plural noun.
  - With a compound subjects, read the subjects separately to determine the pronoun (HESI. 62).
- **Pronouns: Common Mistakes:**

  **POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS NEVER have an APOSTROPHE**

  My/mine  our/ours  whose
  Your/yours  his  her/hers
  It/its  their/their
Often Confused:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronouns</th>
<th>Contractions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>its</td>
<td>it’s - it is/it has</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their</td>
<td>they’re – they are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your</td>
<td>you’re – you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whose</td>
<td>who’s - who is/who has</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One’s is sometimes used as a possessive pronoun when the subject is not clearly defined.

- **Pronouns: Unclear Reference**
  - Sometimes it is unclear to which noun the pronoun is referring. “To avoid unclear pronoun reference, make sure that every pronoun you use refers clearly and unmistakably to ONE particular noun, or rewrite the sentence for increased clarity.” (“Unclear Pronoun Reference”)
- **Apostrophes:**
  - An apostrophe is used in place of omitted letters and numbers as in contractions (HESI. 63)
    - Know the various contractions.
  - An apostrophe is used to show possession, or ownership, of a noun.
    - Know the various rules to show possession
    - Names follow the same rules as words when showing possession.

**AN APOSTROPHE IS NEVER USED TO MAKE A WORD, NAME OR NUMBER PLURAL** (HESI. 63).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>SINGULAR POSSESSIVE</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
<th>PLURAL POSSESSIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Smith’s</td>
<td>Smiths</td>
<td>Smith’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>book</td>
<td>book’s</td>
<td>books</td>
<td>books’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person</td>
<td>person’s</td>
<td>people</td>
<td>people’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>Davis’s</td>
<td>Davises</td>
<td>Davises’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perez</td>
<td>Perez’s</td>
<td>Perezes</td>
<td>Perezes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calf</td>
<td>calf’s</td>
<td>calves</td>
<td>calves’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Misplaced Modifiers:**
  - A modifier is misplaced when it is separated from the word(s) it is describing.
  - To correct a misplaced modifier:
    1. Identify the misplaced modifier
    2. Identify who or what it is describing
    3. Move the modifier next to the word(s) it is describing (Lou)

BE FAMILIAR WITH...

- **Parts of speech:**
  - Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections,
- **Grammar terms:**
  - Independent clause, dependent clause, phrase, sentence, subject, predicate, direct object, indirect object, predicate nominative, predicate adjective
  - Know the difference between a synonym and antonym.
• **Alphabetical Order:**
  o You may need to determine this 3, 4 or 5 letters in
  o HINT: Line the words up vertically to show the letters the words have in common.

• **General Tips:**
  o Notice **NOT, EXCEPT, CORRECT, INCORRECT** in the questions
  o The word data is plural; datum is singular.
  o Always **could have**, not **could of**
  o **A lot** is 2 words

  **Don’t take the test hungry**

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**RECOMMENDED STUDY STRATEGY**

• You don’t need to study everything.
• Take a HESI practice test and notice your strengths and areas that need improvement.
• Practice the individual skills that need improvement.
• Retake a practice test and check for improvement.

**Where can I get a mini-lesson if I need it?**

• **Purdue OWL**
• **Grammarly Blog**
• **Grammar Girl’s Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing**
• **Grammarbook.com**
• **Search You Tube for Videos**

**Where Can I Practice Grammar and Vocabulary?**

• **Quizlet.com**
  • Search **HESI Grammar or HESI Vocabulary**
  • Use flashcards or create quizzes
• **Cengage Learning offers online grammar quizzes**
  • [https://softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/](https://softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/)
• **Google a specific skill with the word worksheet or practice**
  • Apostrophe practice

**Where can I take a HESI A2 Practice Test?**

• [https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/topic/hesi](https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/topic/hesi)
  • Can be set to flashcards or quiz
• [https://www.hesia2practicetest.com/](https://www.hesia2practicetest.com/)
• Many of these offer explanations as you go through the test. There are others.


