

Grammar Curriculum

Grade 10

Confusing Word Groups/Correct Usage

9th Grade Review

affect means *to influence*; it is a *verb*
effect means a *result*; it is a *noun*

The pollution *affected* our health.
 The *effect* of the storm could not be measured.

aggravate means *to make worse*
annoy means *to bother or to irritate*

Your nasty comments aggravated a bad situation.
 Your nasty comments annoyed him. (Not: Your nasty comments aggravated him.)

all ways means *in every possible way*
always means *at all times*

He was in all ways acceptable to the voters.
 He was always ready to help.

allot means *to give or apportion*

I will allot three hours for studying tonight.

alot is a misspelling of a lot

alright is now often employed in common usage to mean *all right* (In formal usage, *all right* is still preferred)

all right means *satisfactory, very well, uninjured, or without doubt*

I'm alright, thank you.
 It was his responsibility, all right.

alumna means a *female graduate* (plural: alumnae; *ae* rhymes with key)

alumnus means a *male graduate* (plural: alumni; *ni* rhymes with high)

She is an alumna of Mrs. Brown's School for Young Women.
 He is an alumnus of City College.

9th Grade Review (continued)

among is used to discuss *more than two items*

between is used to discuss *two items only*

The works was divided among the four brothers.
She divided the pie between Joe and Marie.

amount is used to refer to *a quantity not individually countable*

number is used to refer to *items that can be counted individually*

A tremendous amount of work had piled up on my desk.
We ate a great number of cookies at the party.

annual means *yearly*

biannual means *twice a year (also semiannual)*

biennial means *once in two years or every two years*

Are you going to the annual holiday party?
I receive biannual statements from my insurance company in April and
October.
He gets a new car biennially.

anxious means *worried*

eager means *keenly desirous*

We were anxious about our first airplane flight.
We were eager to go to Disney World.

bad is used after verbs that refer to the senses, such as *look, feel* (adjective)

badly means *greatly, in a bad manner* (adverb)

He felt bad that he could not attend the meeting.
The young man needs a job very badly.

aren't I is used informally, but in formal usage, **am I not** is correct

Am I not entitled to an explanation?

bring means *to carry toward the speaker*

take means *to carry away from the speaker*

Bring the coat to me.
Take money for the carfare when you leave.

9th Grade Review (continued)

can means *able*

may implies *permission or possibility*

I can eat both desserts.
May I eat both desserts?
It may snow tonight.

could of, should of, would of are incorrect forms of **could have, should have, would have** which can be contracted to *could've, should've, and would've* in informal writing

I wish that I could have gone.

continual means *happening again and again* at short intervals

continuous means *without interruption*

The teacher gave the class continual warnings.
The continuous rain made us lethargic.

each other refers to *two persons*

one another refers to *more than two persons*

Jane and Jessica have known each other for years.
Several of the girls have known one another for years.

lay means *to put*

lie means *to recline*

to lay:

(present)	I lay	\
(past)	I laid	the gift on the table.
(present perfect)	I have laid	/

to lie:

(present)	I lie	\
(past)	I lay	on the beach blanket.
(present perfect)	I have lain	/

9th Grade Review Check Drill

Check (✓) the space provided if the sentence is correct; if there is an error in usage, write the correct form.

1. He shared the riches between Lara, Millie, and Ernestine. _____
2. We are all ways available to baby-sit for you during the week. _____
3. Alot of the time, he falls asleep at nine o'clock. _____
4. It was hard to keep track of the amount of people who visited last week. _____
5. She is just beginning to annoy her mother. _____
6. He is the school's oldest living alumnus. _____
7. He is anxious to be finished with the dental treatment. _____
8. I feel very badly that I drank all the coffee. _____
9. We wish we could of been with you in Paris. _____
10. "Ms. Potter, can I go to the bathroom?" _____
11. Please bring these cookies to the neighbors. _____
12. Sam, Joe, Luke, and Artie have worked with each other before. _____
13. I am anxious to see the new Broadway musical. _____
14. My mother continuously nags me about my homework. _____
15. I laid down to take a short nap. _____
16. How will the new schedule change effect you? _____
17. We lay on the grass enjoying the sunshine. _____

9th Grade Review Check Drill ANSWERS

Check (✓) the space provided if the sentence is correct; if there is an error in usage, write the correct form.

1. He shared the riches between Lara, Millie, and Ernestine. **AMONG**
2. We are all ways available to baby-sit for you during the week. **ALWAYS**
3. Alot of the time, he falls asleep at nine o'clock. **A LOT**
4. It was hard to keep track of the amount of people who visited last week. **NUMBER**
5. She is just beginning to annoy her mother. ✓ **CORRECT**
6. He is the school's oldest living alumnus. ✓ **CORRECT**
7. He is anxious to be finished with the dental treatment. **EAGER**
8. I feel very badly that I drank all the coffee. **BAD**
9. We wish we could of been with you in Paris. **COULD HAVE**
10. "Ms. Potter, can I go to the bathroom?" **MAY**
11. Please bring these cookies to the neighbors. **TAKE**
12. Sam, Joe, Luke, and Artie have worked with each other before. **ONE ANOTHER**
13. I am anxious to see the new Broadway musical. **EAGER**
14. My mother continuously nags me about my homework. **CONTINUALLY**
15. I laid down to take a short nap. **LAY**
16. How will the new schedule change effect you? **AFFECT**
17. We lay on the grass enjoying the sunshine. ✓ **CORRECT**

Glossary of Usage – Group 1 Grade 10 Fall

capital refers to *the place of government* or to *wealth*
capitol refers to *the building which houses the state or national legislatures*

Paris is the *capital* of France.
It takes substantial *capital* to open a business.
Congress convenes in the *Capitol* in Washington, D.C.

conscience refers to *the ability to recognize the difference between right and wrong*
conscious means *aware*

The attorney claimed that the criminal lacked a *conscience*.
He was *conscious* that his actions would have serious consequences.

farther is used to express *distance*
further is used to express *time or degree*

John ran *farther* than Miguel.
“Let’s not discuss this any *further*,” said Rose.

fewer is used to refer to items that can be counted
less is used to refer to something viewed as a mass, not as a series of individual items

I made *fewer* repairs on the new car than on the old one.
After the scandal, the company enjoyed *less* prestige that it had previously.

former means the *first* of two
latter means the *second* of two

The *former* half of the story was in prose.
The *latter* half of the story was in poetry.

good is an adjective; it is often used informally as an adverb, but the correct word is *well*

She is a *good* singer.
She sings *well*.

hanged is used in reference to a *person*
hung is used in reference to a *thing*

The prisoner was *hanged* in the town square.
The drapes were *hung* unevenly.

have got is incorrect usage; *got* should be omitted

I *have* an umbrella.
NOT: I have *got* an umbrella.

healthful is used to express whatever *gives* health
healthy is used to express whatever *has* health

He follows a *healthful* diet.
He is a *healthy* person.

if introduces a *condition*
whether introduces a *choice*

I shall go to Greece *if* I win the prize.
He asked me *whether* I intended to go to Greece.

if it was implies that *something might have been true in the past*
if it were *implies doubt* or indicates something that is contrary to fact

If your book *was* there last night, it is there now.
If it were summer now, we would all go swimming.

imply means to *suggest* or *hint at* (the speaker implies)
infer means to *deduce* or *conclude* (the listener infers)

Are you *implying* that I have disobeyed orders?
From your carefree tone, what else are we to *infer*?

in back of means *behind*
in the back of (or at the back of) means *in the rear of*

The shovel is *in back of* (behind) the barn.
John is sitting *in the back of* the theatre.

irregardless is an incorrect form of *regardless*

I'll be your friend *regardless* of what people say about you.

is when is sometimes used informally, but in formal usage, *occurs when* is correct
is where is sometimes used informally, but in formal usage, *a place where* is correct

kind of and **sort of** are informal expressions that should be rephrased in formal writing—for instance, *somewhat* or *rather* are preferable

I am *rather* sorry he retired.
He was *somewhat* late for the meeting.

kid is used informally to mean *child* (noun) or *to make fun of* (verb), but it is incorrect in formal usage

My cousin is a very sweet child.
They always laugh when you make fun of me.

least means *the smallest in degree or lowest rank*
less means *the smaller or lower of two*

This is the *least* desirable of all the apartments we have seen.
This apartment is *less* spacious than the one we saw yesterday.

leave means *to go away from* (a verb is **NOT** used with leave)
let means *to permit* (a verb **IS** used with let)

Leave this house at once.
Let me remain in peace in my own house.

lend is a verb meaning *to give to*
loan is a noun denoting *what is given*
borrow means *to take from*

The bank was willing to *lend* him \$500.
He was granted a *loan* of \$500.
I'd like to *borrow* your electric drill for an hour.

liable means *responsible according to the law*
likely suggests *probable behavior*

If he falls down the stairs, we may be *liable* for damages.
A cat, if annoyed, is *likely* to scratch.

libel is a *written and published statement injurious to a person's character*
slander is a *spoken statement of the same sort*

The unsubstantiated negative comments about me in your book constitute *libel*.
When you say those vicious things about me, you are committing *slander*.

many refers to *a number*
much refers to *a quantity or amount*

How *many* inches of rain fell last night?
Much rain fell last night.

may of is an incorrect form of *may have*
might of is an incorrect form of *might have*

He *may have* been there, but I didn't see him.
I *might have* gone to the party if I hadn't been ill.

--NOTE: contractions of these terms are not acceptable in formal usage!

English 10 Fall 1**Practice Drill**

Place a check (✓) in the space provided if the sentence is correct in formal writing; if there is an error in usage, write the correct form.

1. She asked him if he wanted to have lunch with her or her sister. _____
2. There are less details to worry about in this project. _____
3. I hung the heavy picture in the living room. _____
4. His girlfriend only eats healthy foods. _____
5. Morris received an A+ and a C- on his papers. The latter was an excellent grade.

6. He ran good at the track meet. _____
7. I have got your phone number in my book. _____
8. I'm not certain, but she might of said she was going to Wal-Mart. _____
9. Your remark leads me to imply that you are dissatisfied. _____
10. Remember that she is less fortunate than you are. _____
11. How much pounds has Bertha lost so far? _____
12. The swimming pool is in the back of those trees. _____
13. Bill said such terrible things about Kara that she is suing him for libel. _____
14. "I intend to enroll my kid in the nursery school," the father wrote. _____
15. "Please let me be alone," Susannah exclaimed. _____
16. She is always late for work, irregardless of how early she wakes up in the morning. _____
17. Ralph will loan you money for the taxicab. _____
18. Lucy is not likely to be ready yet; she takes forever washing her hair. _____
19. The most exciting part of the film is when he kills the dragon. _____
20. I am going to protest in the capital city in order to clear my conscios. _____

English 10 Fall 1 Practice Drill ANSWERS

Place a check (✓) in the space provided if the sentence is correct in formal writing; if there is an error in usage, write the correct form.

1. She asked him if he wanted to have lunch with her or her sister. **WHETHER**
2. There are less details to worry about in this project. **FEWER**
3. I hung the heavy picture in the living room. ✓ **CORRECT**
4. His girlfriend only eats healthy foods. **HEALTHFUL**
5. Morris received an A+ and a C- on his papers. The latter was an excellent grade.
FORMER
6. He ran good at the track meet. **WELL**
7. I have got your phone number in my book. **ELIMINATE "GOT"**
8. I'm not certain, but she might of said she was going to Wal-Mart. **MIGHT HAVE**
9. Your remark leads me to imply that you are dissatisfied. **INFER**
10. Remember that she is less fortunate than you are. ✓ **CORRECT**
11. How much pounds has Bertha lost so far? **MANY**
12. The swimming pool is in the back of those trees. **BACK**
13. Bill said such terrible things about Kara that she is suing him for libel.
SLANDER
14. "I intend to enroll my kid in the nursery school," the father wrote. **CHILD**
15. "Please let me be alone," Susannah exclaimed. ✓ **CORRECT**
16. She is always late for work, irregardless of how early she wakes up in the morning. **REGARDLESS**
17. Ralph will loan you money for the taxicab. **LEND**
18. Lucy is not likely to be ready yet; she takes forever washing her hair. ✓
CORRECT
19. The most exciting part of the film is when he kills the dragon. **OCCURS WHEN**
20. I am going to protest in the capital city in order to clear my conscious.
CONSCIENCE

English 10 Fall 1 Grammar Review

Circle the correct answer for each sentence.

1. Lola gathered **less/fewer** seashells on the beach this year than she did last year.
2. The **capital/capitol** of New York is Albany.
3. I did really **good/well** on my driver's test.
4. We celebrate Christmas and Easter in my family. The **former/latter** is usually in April, but sometimes falls in March.
5. After stealing, Bart suffered from a guilty **conscience/conscious**.
6. Nutritionists recommend a **healthy/healthful** diet.
7. **Irregardless/Regardless** of what people say, you must follow your own beliefs.
8. Melanie asked me **if/whether** I would drive her to school.
9. Several people were **hung/hanged** as witches in Salem, Massachusetts.
10. California is **farther/further** away from New York than Texas.
11. I did **good/well** on my grammar test last week.
12. Lisandra is **kind of/rather** talented at art.
13. A solar eclipse **is when/occurs when** the moon covers all or part of the sun.
14. We **implied/inferred** from the author's tone that he did not like fried bananas.
15. "I **have got/have** the most awesome toothbrush holder!" she exclaimed.
16. "**Leave/Let me** alone," said Jenny to her annoying little brother.
17. Most students like to sit **in back of/in the back of** the classroom.
18. **If it was/If it were** my birthday, I'd eat two pieces of cake instead of just one.
19. Naomi sued *The National Enquirer* for **libel/slander** when they said she was a Russian spy.
20. The best part in the film **is when/occurs when** Hortense finds the bullfrog.

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