

Tips for the Troublesome "T" Words

They're - There - Their

They're - This word is the contraction for the words "They are." A clue that this word must be used as a contraction is the apostrophe that takes the place of the letter "a."

There - This word refers to place. "He is standing over there."

Their - This word is used to denote possession. "Their house is on the corner."

"There" and "their" are frequently confused when writing. Below is a device which might help you to remember how to use each word:

Remove the T from each word	You are left with	Tip for remembering usage
T/here	here	Here denotes place - Think "here and there."
T/heir	heir	An heir is one who inherits or comes into possession - Remember that "their" shows possession.

Then - Than

Then - This word is used when you are making a reference to time. "I went to the library, and then I went to the mall."

Than - This word is used when you are making a comparison. "Bill is taller than Tom."

Try this tip to help you remember how to use each word correctly in your writing:

"Then" rhymes with "when", and "when" refers to time.

Use "then" in cases in which you want to refer to time.

Otherwise, use "than."