



English Teachers' Pet Peeves

Using **to** and **too** incorrectly





To, too and *two*-the bane of your existence!

- People are always mixing up **to**, **too** and **two**. Almost everyone knows that the word **two** is the one that refers to a number. Let's assume you do, too.
- The biggest problem, then, is mixing up **to** and **too**. Luckily, there is a very easy way to tell the difference between the words.



Well, what is it? Huh, huh, huh?

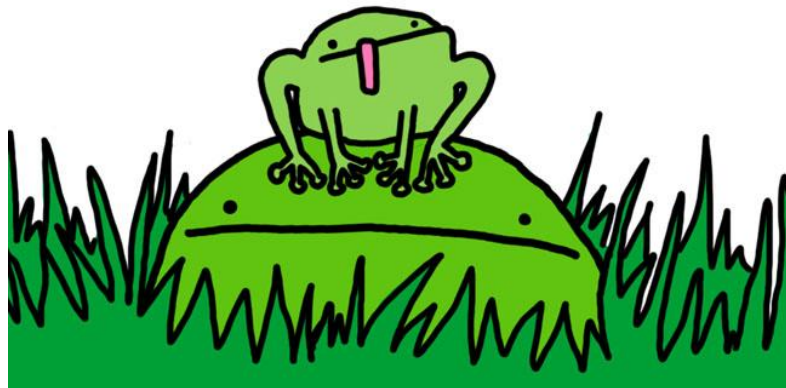
- The key is to remember how we really pronounce the little “filler” word **to**.
- Most of us really pronounce **to** so that it sounds kind of like **tuh**, as in “I’m going tuh watch TV now.”
- When you don’t know which word to use, try saying **tuh** in the sentence. If **tuh** makes sense, use the word **to**. If **tuh** sounds silly, use the word **too**.



Warning!

- The trick only works if you try ***tuh*** first. Don't do it the other way around and try ***too*** first. *Everything* sounds all right with ***too***.

We're watching you...





You're ready for some examples, I just know it.

- Joleen said, "I'm going **to/too** buy a new hamster."



- Blake likes chocolate cake, chocolate milk, and chocolate pie, **to/too**.



Correct answers and explanations coming your way:

- Joleen said, “I’m going **to** buy a new hamster.”

(Try substituting **tuh** in the sentence: I’m going **tuh** buy a new hamster. That sounds okay, so use **to**.)

- Blake likes chocolate cake, chocolate milk, and chocolate pie, **too**.

(Try substituting **tuh** in the sentence: Blake likes chocolate cake, chocolate milk, and chocolate pie, **tuh**. **Tuh** sounds wrong, so use **too**.)



Time to practice. (C'mon, you know you want to!)

- “We should look **to/too** the future when deciding who should have our vote,” announced the candidate for the Senate. “It is **to/too** expensive for our future if you choose my opponent.”

“Why?” asked Maria. “I am planning **to/too** vote for the other guy, and most of the rest of us here are, **to/too**.”

“My opponent, unfortunately, is veracity-challenged. He also is less than respectful **to/too** his constituents and tends **to/too** alienate those with whom he has contact.”

“Tell us in plain English,” said Maria. “What’s wrong with the guy?”

“**To/too** get right **to/too** the point, he lies,” said the candidate. “He’s a big jerk, **to/too**.”



Hamburger is cheering you on!

Go go go go go!!





Did you get them all right?

- “We should look **to** the future when deciding who should have our vote,” announced the candidate for the Senate. “It is **too** expensive for our future if you choose my opponent.”

“Why?” asked Maria. “I am planning **to** vote for the other guy, and most of the rest of us here are, **too**.”

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“Tell us in plain English,” said Maria. “What’s wrong with the guy?”

“**To** get right **to** the point, he lies,” said the candidate. “He’s a big jerk, **too**.”