



Top Ten Grammatical Goofs

10. *Its* or *it's*?

Try this: Say *it is* in your head — if it works, use *it's*; if it doesn't, use *its*.

It's the best pizza in the world; *its* got lots of pepperoni on it! (*It is*) the best pizza in the world. Yes! (*It is*) got lots of pepperoni on it. (No way!)

9. *Your* or *you're*?

You're is a contraction (short for) *you are*; *Your* shows possession:

You're (*you are*) going to love this pizza! *Your* pizza is the best in the world.

To be sure, replace *you're/your* with *our*; if it works, use *your* — if not, use *you're*

You're (*you are*) pizza is the best or *your* (*our*) pizza is the best? Get it?

8. *Than I* or *than me*?

Complete the sentence in your head — and you will know which word is correct:

She eats pizza faster *than me*. (She eats pizza faster *than me* eats pizza?) Nah!

She eats pizza faster *than I*. (She eats faster *than I* eat pizza.) Yeah!

Unfortunately, sometimes they both work — depending upon what you want to say.

She likes pizza more *than I*. (She likes pizza more *than I* like pizza.)

She likes pizza more *than me*. (She likes pizza more than she *likes me*.) Boo hoo.

7. *Insure* or *ensure*?

Use *insure* only if you work for State Farm; otherwise:

Taking two Alka-Seltzer before bed will *ensure* you don't get sick from eating too much pizza.

6. Between **you and I** or between **you and me**?

The pizza box is behind **you and ...**? Confused? Take the "other" person out of the picture: The pizza box is behind **I**. No! The pizza box is behind **me**.

Thus: The pizza box is behind **you and me**. Or better yet: The pizza box is behind **us**.

Aha!

5. **Anyway** or **anyways**? **Toward** or **towards**?

This is simple! **NO S**

P.S. Brits say **towards**, Americans use **toward**. I wish knew why.

4. **Principal** or **principle**

Use **principal** when referring to a **person**. (Think of: The school **principal** is your **pal**.)

Also use **principal** for something that is **primary** or most important: The **principal** purpose of this ...

Principle refers to a "rule": Follow this **principle** and you can't go wrong.

3. **Who** versus **that**

Who is for people; **that** is for **things** (or pets).

I have a **friend who** ate my pizza. My friend has a **dog that** ate my pizza.

2. **Who** or **whom**; **who's** or **whose**?

Basically, **who** = **he/she/they** and **whom** = **him/her/them**. Think of the "**m**" in **whom** and **him**.

Who asked for pepperoni on the pizza? **He** asked for pepperoni. (**Him** asked for pepperoni? Ugh.)

Whom did you invite over for pizza? I invited **him**. (I invited **he**? No way!)

Who's and **whose** may sound the same, but they are two very different words:

Who's is really **who is**. **Who's** eating my pizza? (**Who is** eating?)

Whose shows possession: **Whose** piece of pizza is this? (It is **hers**.)

To be sure, try this: **Who's** pizza is this? (**Who is** pizza is this?) Wrong again!

1. Is it **alot** or **a lot**?

Do you say, I want **alittle** pepperoni on my pizza? No. So why say, I want **alot** of pepperoni on my pizza?

A lot is NOT one word when describing an amount of something: time, space, size.

However: **Allot** IS one word, which means "setting aside":

Should I **allot** (set aside) **a lot** of time to this or not?