

Word Choice

Professional writers know how important it is to use just-right words in just the right ways. To do that in their own writing, students need to know how to make good choices—and how to make correct choices, especially when it comes to tricky situations. This means using verb tenses correctly and checking for subject-verb agreement; making the best use of adjectives and forming them properly; and knowing when a word that may seem right is, frankly, wrong. That is what this Word Choice section is all about.

Overview of the Skills

Lesson #1

Verb tenses: regular verbs

Every verb has three main tenses: present, past, and future. The present tense is used for actions taking place now or regularly. The past tense is used for things in the past, things that have already happened. The future is for things that will happen at a later date.

"Regular" verbs follow very regular rules to form tenses. They use the basic verb or add *-ing* for present tense; add either *-d* or *-ed* for past tense; and use a helping word, usually *will* or *shall*, for the future tense. *Look* and *play* are regular verbs and form tenses according to the rules:

Present	Past	Future
<i>look/looking</i>	<i>looked</i>	<i>will look</i>
<i>play/playing</i>	<i>played</i>	<i>will play</i>

Spelling #1 - Answers

Class Work

1. their 2. their 3. their 4. them 5. They're

Homework

1. they're 2. their 3. them 4. them 5. their
6. They're 7. them 8. their 9. their 10. They're