

# Spelling Grade-Appropriate Words

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Many Grade 6 spelling errors involve **HOMOPHONES** — words that sound alike but mean different things. Memorize the most common pairs: their (belongs to them) / there (in that place) / they're (they are); your / you're; its / it's; to / too / two; accept (receive) / except (leave out); affect (verb, to influence) / effect (noun, the result); principal (head of school) / principle (a rule); past (already happened) / passed (went by); complement (completes) / compliment (praise); stationary (not moving) / stationery (paper); desert (dry land or to abandon) / dessert (sweet food); breath (noun) / breathe (verb); advise (verb) / advice (noun). Always pick the spelling that fits the **MEANING** in the sentence.

## PRACTICE

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'The hikers left \_\_\_ backpacks by the trailhead.'
  - A. there
  - B. their
  - C. they're
  - D. thier
2. Which word correctly completes the sentence? '\_\_\_ going to need a permission slip for the field trip.'
  - A. Your
  - B. You
  - C. You're
  - D. Yore
3. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'The puppy wagged \_\_\_ tail when it saw the leash.'
  - A. it's
  - B. its'
  - C. its
  - D. it is



4. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'The new vaccine had a strong \_\_\_\_ on patient recovery times.'
- A. affect
  - B. effect
  - C. afect
  - D. effekt
5. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'Everyone came to the assembly \_\_\_\_ the sixth graders, who were on a field trip.'
- A. accept
  - B. exept
  - C. except
  - D. acsept
6. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'Our school \_\_\_\_ spoke at the awards ceremony last night.'
- A. principle
  - B. principal
  - C. principel
  - D. principial
7. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'I cannot decide \_\_\_\_ to wear my raincoat or my jacket.'
- A. weather
  - B. wether
  - C. whether
  - D. wheather
8. Which word correctly completes the sentence? 'Last summer we \_\_\_\_ three weeks at my grandmother's cabin.'
- A. past
  - B. passed
  - C. pased
  - D. paste
9. Rewrite this sentence with the four underlined words spelled or chosen correctly: 'Their going to bring they're own dessert because the stationary store was closed.' (Underlined: Their, they're, dessert, stationary.)

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10. Write one sentence that uses BOTH 'advice' and 'advise' correctly.

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## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9
- 10

### Explanations

<b>1. B</b>	'Their' is the possessive form meaning 'belonging to them' — it fits because the backpacks belong to the hikers. 'There' refers to a place. 'They're' is the contraction of 'they are' (the hikers are backpacks makes no sense). 'Thier' is a misspelling that breaks the 'i before e except after c' pattern.
<b>2. C</b>	The sentence needs 'You are going,' which contracts to 'You're.' 'Your' is the possessive ('your slip') and cannot stand in for 'you are.' 'You' alone leaves the sentence without a verb. 'Yore' is an archaic word meaning 'long ago' (as in 'days of yore').
<b>3. C</b>	'Its' (no apostrophe) is the possessive — the tail belongs to the puppy. 'It's' with an apostrophe ALWAYS means 'it is' or 'it has,' which does not fit ('It is tail' is nonsense). 'Its' with a trailing apostrophe is not a real English word. 'It is' substituted in shows the same problem as 'it's.'
<b>4. B</b>	'Effect' is a NOUN meaning 'the result.' The sentence has a strong ____ — a noun is needed after 'strong,' and the meaning is 'result.' 'Affect' is the VERB meaning 'to influence' and cannot follow 'a strong' here. 'Afect' is a misspelling. 'Effekt' uses a German-style 'k' that English does not.
<b>5. C</b>	'Except' is a preposition meaning 'leaving out' or 'not including' — the sixth graders are NOT included in 'everyone.' 'Accept' is a verb meaning 'to receive willingly' and does not fit. 'Exept' and 'acsept' are misspellings of the two real words.
<b>6. B</b>	'Principal' (ending -pal) is the NOUN meaning the head of a school. Memory trick: the princIPAL is your PAL. 'Principle' (ending -ple) is a noun meaning a rule or belief and cannot speak at a ceremony. 'Principel' and 'principial' are misspellings that do not exist in standard English.
<b>7. C</b>	'Whether' introduces a choice between alternatives ('whether X or Y'). 'Weather' refers to rain, sun, wind, and so on — even though the sentence mentions a raincoat, the word needed is the one that means 'a choice.' 'Wether' is a real but very rare word for a male sheep. 'Wheather' is a misspelling.
<b>8. B</b>	'Passed' is the past-tense VERB of 'to pass' — here it means 'spent.' The sentence needs a verb after 'we.' 'Past' is a noun ('in the past') or an adjective ('past events') and cannot serve as the main verb of this sentence. 'Pased' is a misspelling. 'Paste' is a different word meaning 'glue.'
<b>9.</b>	<b>Answer:</b> They're going to bring their own dessert because the stationery store was closed. 'They're' (they are) is needed at the start because the sentence states what they are doing. 'Their' (possessive) is correct before 'own dessert' to show ownership. 'Dessert' (the sweet food) is already correct. 'Stationary' means 'not moving' — the store sells paper goods, so 'stationery' (with an -e-, like envelope) is the right homophone.

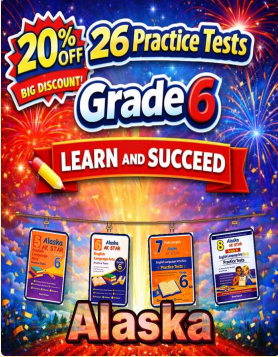


10.

**Answer:** Sample answer: My coach gave me good advice, and I would advise any new player to listen to her.  
'Advice' is the NOUN (the thing you give or receive), and 'advise' is the VERB (the action of giving advice). The sample uses 'advice' as the object of 'gave' and 'advise' as an action the speaker would do. Any sentence that uses 'advice' as a noun and 'advise' as a verb is correct.



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