

Dealing with Teenagers



The worksheets in this chapter are based on the following areas:

- taking notes, and
- words that sound the same.

For help with the worksheets, you can:

- call the NALA Freephone support line at 1800 20 20 65 on Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm, or
- check out the Really Useful Guide to Words and Numbers Web site on www.rug.ie.

Reading: Dealing with Teenagers

The piece below is taken from an article offering advice to parents who suspect a teenager is taking drugs. The advice should also help with other problems.

A good relationship is important.

You may feel angry and upset over what has happened, and you may be angry at being put in a position where you feel you must step in. But remember that a good relationship with your son or daughter is the most important factor in preventing harm, so don't make matters worse by going over the top. Let the young person know you are angry or disappointed, but don't increase the crisis too much.

Take care of yourself first.

In the emergency drill on an airplane they remind you to put on your own oxygen mask first, before you help your children to put on theirs. The same applies here. Talk to other adults; consult friends; phone a counsellor if you wish.

Article taken from drug awareness programme at
http://www.dap.ie/dap_prof/find_local_help_drug.htm

Reading: Dealing with Teenagers

Look at the questions below and tick the correct answer.

The first one is done for you.

1. What is the article about?
- cigarettes
 drink
 drugs
2. A good relationship is...
- important.
 not important.
 makes no difference.
3. The article says that you should...
- say nothing.
 step in.
 walk away.
4. The emergency drill mentioned was on a...
- plane.
 boat.
 train.
5. They remind you to first put on your own...
- coat.
 oxygen mask.
 shoes.

Reading: Taking Notes

Agony Aunt Anita's Problem Page Do you need advice? If so, Aunt Anita and her readers are here **to** help you.

Q: My 16-year old daughter is hanging out with a group of teenagers who are trouble. I have been told that at least **two** of them are on drugs. She was badly bullied in school and as a result is lacking in confidence. I have since discovered that one of her new friends is one of the bullies. She has terrible mood swings and her temper is out of control **too**. She has denied taking drugs, but I don't believe her.

Worried mom.

**Readers, what advice would you give her?
Use the box below to note your thoughts.**

Reading: Taking Notes

Now, read what advice Aunt Anita gave and see if you came up with the same advice.

Dear worried mom,

Before you deal with any problem, it is a good idea to try and write down questions you need answers for.

Look at the list of points the readers send in.

They should help you to put together your own list of questions.

- Get as much up-to-date drug information as you can.
- Let the teenager know that you are interested and involved and that you will help when needed.
- Don't ask why, but do ask what happened.
- Avoid questions that just need a yes or no. Questions that ask them to describe or explain how they feel will get a longer answer.

Good luck.

Writing: To, Two and Too

Some words sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Look at the letter on page 36 and you will see the words to, two and too underlined. These words sound the same but are spelled differently.

To is the most common of the three words. It is used before a verb as in,

‘Aunt Anita and her readers are here to help you.’

It can also be used when talking about places as in,

‘She is going to the shop.’

Two is a number as in,

‘I have been told that at least two of them are on drugs.’

Too can be used to mean ‘also’ as in,

She has terrible mood swings and her temper is out of control too.

If you do not use the correct spelling in a sentence, the meaning will not be clear. If you are in doubt, keep a dictionary handy and look up the meaning of the word you are using.

Writing: To, Two and Too

Now see if you can fill in the blanks in the letter and answer below using the words to, two and too.

Q: I have a problem with my son. He's in Junior Cert class but doesn't want ___ study. We've sent him ___ grinds but each time he has stopped after the first lesson, saying he finds them boring. My partner and I are very worried that he won't do well in his exams. As well as his studies, he's lazy at home and refuses ___ work for his pocket money. What can we do ___ make him work harder?

Cliona, Cork.

A: Dear Cliona,

You're like a lot of other worried parents in Ireland today. There is a lot of pressure on children ___ do well in exams. But some people just don't do well in these types of tests. Before you try ___ come up with ways ___ make your son work harder, you should try ___ identify his strengths and weaknesses.

- What is he good at?
- What does he like ___ do?
- What is he not so good at?

Remember we all have things we're good at and things we're not so good at. If you can figure out what these are ___, then maybe you can find subjects that he'll be interested in. Once he sees you want ___ help him find these things, then he may become more helpful around the house! If he still doesn't want ___ help, stop his pocket money for a while and see if that does the trick!

Writing: Its and It's

It is easy to get confused between the words 'its' and 'it's' but it is important to get them right when you are writing. Otherwise, what you write may not make much sense.

Its

This is used to show that something belongs to something else. For example,

The dog lost its collar.

The house has its own swimming pool

The car was damaged; its windscreen was cracked.

It's

This is short for the two words it is. The apostrophe ' shows that the letter **i** from **is** is missing. For example,

It's a cold day.

It's a long way from Clare to here.

The car was damaged; it's in the garage.

If you are not sure which one to use look at the sentence and see if it makes sense using it is. For example:

I think it is raining.

means the same as

I think it's raining.

But if you change *The cat caught its tail* to *The cat caught it is tail*, you can see this does not make any sense.

Writing: Other Words that Sound the Same

Their and There

Their means belonging to someone or something. For example,

their coat, their bag or their house.

There is used when you are making a statement or to point out a place. For example,

Put the chair over there.

Hear and Here

You hear with your ears. To help you remember think of ear and then put h in front of it.

Can you hear the music?

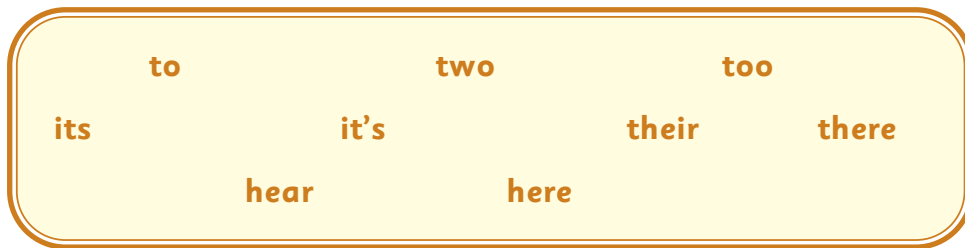
Here is used to indicate a place. For example,

The bus is here.

Can you think of any other words that sound the same but are spelled differently?

Writing: Words that Sound the Same

Fill in the gaps in the sentences below with words taken from the box.



1. A leopard can not change _____ spots.
2. The cat lost one of _____ nine lives.
3. _____ very warm inside.
4. Please come _____ .
5. I can't visit the neighbours. _____ dog is very dangerous.
6. Did you _____ what I said?
7. As well as tall, he is good looking _____ .
8. I have _____ sisters.
9. She likes _____ swim in the sea.
10. I bought _____ bars of chocolate.

Writing: Words that Sound the Same

Look at the following words. Each pair has the same sound but different meanings. Use a dictionary to find the meanings of each word. Then write a sentence for each word.

beach beech

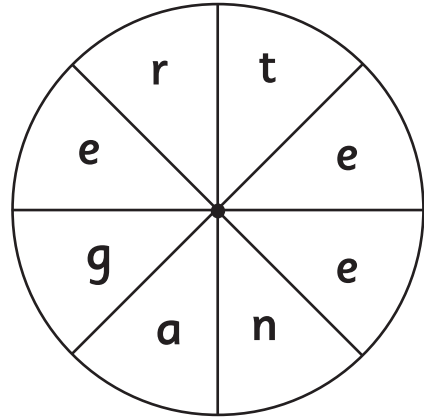
flour flower

meet meat

steel steal

Wordwheel

The word in the wheel is teenager.



You can make smaller words from this word.

Teenager age Teenager nag

If you change the letters around, you can make even more words.

Teenager anger Teenager rage

Look at the clues below to find more words in teenager. The numbers after each clue tell you how many letters are in the answer.

1. The number 10 written in words (3). _____
2. A small insect starting with **a** (3). _____
3. An old piece of cloth (3). _____
4. You go this colour with envy (5). _____

Now see how many extra words you can find.