

Name _____ Date _____

Word Choice – Exercise 1: *Their, There, and They're*

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: <http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm>

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*their*, *there*, or *they're*.

1. Unable to tolerate the dust one moment longer, Elizabeth spent the afternoon cleaning the living room tables and shelves. Now _____ slippery with furniture polish, glowing in the sunlight that spills through the open window.
2. "Oh, no! _____ are lima beans on my plate!" screamed Noel before he fainted with a thud on the dining room floor.
3. Nothing makes Diane's cat Big Toe Joe happier than a laundry basket full of fresh warm towels. _____ he will sleep, purring in contentment and shedding long white hair on the clean terry cloth.
4. Mrs. O'Shea spent the day steam cleaning the living room floor. Now her children can hardly find the kitchen without _____ trail of dirty footprints leading the way.
5. Dolly hates dogs more than snakes or cockroaches. She believes that canines are loathsome creatures because _____ only goal in life is to kill her front lawn with urine.
6. Behind the sofa _____ is a collection of desiccated broccoli spears that Simon, the family cocker spaniel, carries away for Noel, who cannot stomach the vegetable.
7. The knives in Roseanne's kitchen are encrusted with bits of brownie and smears of dried mustard. _____ is no way a doctor would ever consider operating with any instrument that Roseanne had washed!
8. Bentley, our neighbor's basset hound, has toenails that are so long that _____ curled like macaroni noodles at the ends of his paws.
9. Noel carefully sliced each Brussels sprout in half, carefully scrutinizing the heart of the little cabbage. He always worries that _____ might be a worm buried in the middle.
10. Casey and Tamara had plenty of privacy for kissing because _____ were six sheets drying on the clothesline in the backyard.
11. Warren hates cleaning the bathroom because his brothers always leave globs of toothpaste in the sink, and _____ dirty underwear hangs from the doorknobs or lies in damp piles on the tile floor.
12. Raymond's parakeets love to sit on his head; _____ droppings litter his shoulders like flakes of dandruff.
13. After a few ineffective swipes across the kitchen floor, Kristy returned the mop to the closet. _____ it would remain for another six months.

14. In a frenzy of packing, the Gonzalez family even boxed their poodle, Chiquita. _____ moving into a new home tomorrow, and everything must be ready to go.
15. Willard loves going food shopping late at night. The aisles are free of people, so _____ is no one to see him sneaking grapes in the produce section or filching cookies from the bakery.
16. Russell and his friend Ted dived into _____ car and sped out of the parking lot. Dripping milkshake, Billy soon followed, shaking his fist and swearing revenge at the fleeing car.
17. Lolita heaped her brother's plate with barbecue chicken, potato salad, and baked beans. _____ was so much food that Henry needed two hands to carry the plate to the table.
18. Eboni and Andrea can spend an entire paycheck during one trip to the mall. They eat at the food court, shop for clothes and makeup, and buy popcorn and movie tickets with _____ last few dollars.
19. Maria gasped in horror when she looked at her new leather furniture. _____ were scratches and punctures all over the armrests from the sharp claws of her cat Brandy.
20. After the long walk in the August heat, Norman's two dogs collapsed on the cool tiles of the kitchen floor, tongues rolling from _____ mouths in exhausted panting.



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