The Important Apostrophe: Their, They're, and There

The words *their, they're,* and *there* are often confused. They sound the same, but they have entirely different meanings. *Their* is possessive, showing something that belongs a group of people: they. *They're* is a contraction of the words *they are*. The apostrophe shows that the letter 'a' is missing. *There* is an adverb that shows a location or a pronoun that works at the beginning of a phrase or sentence.

Tip: To know which word is correct, try the sentence using the words *they are*. If the sentence makes sense, then *they're* is the correct usage. If the sentence does not make sense, see if the the sentence is speaking about something belonging to someone or something. In that case use *their*. If the sentence is talking about a location, use *there*. If the word is used with a form of the verb to be, such as *is, are, were* or *was*, you also use *there*.

Part I. Read each sentence below. If *their, they're* or *there* is used correctly in the sentence, circle *right* in the blank. If *their, they're* or *there* is not used correctly, circle *wrong*.

1. The band likes to play their original songs.   right   wrong

2. They're flying kites in the park.   right   wrong

3. There is a monster in the closet.   right   wrong

4. No one likes there secrets told.   right   wrong

5. Sophie asked if they're would be clowns at the circus.   right   wrong

6. There best ideas were written on the whiteboard.   right   wrong

7. Don't go there.   right   wrong

8. They're are many reasons to learn a foreign language.   right   wrong

Part II. In the blanks below, write the correct word: *their, they're* or *there*.

1. The family likes to eat _____ dinner early.

2. Do you know if _____ in the cafeteria?

3. If you go to New York City, you will see many tall buildings _____ .

4. Let me know when _____ ready to leave.

5. Everyone should be on _____ best behavior.

6. _____ the best neighbors in the world.

7. They will tell you if _____ are pieces missing.

8. My dogs often sleep in _____ doghouse.

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Part I. Read each sentence below. If *their, they're* or *there* is used correctly in the sentence, circle *right* in the blank. If *their, they're* or *there* is not used correctly, circle *wrong.*

1. The band likes to play their original songs.	(right)	wrong
2. They're flying kites in the park.	(right)	wrong
3. There is a monster in the closet.	(right)	wrong
4. No one likes there secrets told.	right	(wrong)
5. Sophie asked if they're would be clowns at the circus.	right	(wrong)
6. There best ideas were written on the whiteboard.	right	(wrong)
7. Don't go there.	(right)	wrong
8. They're are many reasons to learn a foreign language.	right	(wrong)

Part II. In the blanks below, write the correct word: *their, they're* or *there.*

1. The family likes to eat _____**their**_____ dinner early.

2. Do you know if _____**they're**_____ in the cafeteria?

3. If you go to New York City, you will see many tall buildings _____**there**_____ .

4. Let me know when _____**they're**_____ ready to leave.

5. Everyone should be on _____**their**_____ best behavior.

6. _____**They're**_____ the best neighbors in the world.

7. They will tell you if _____**there**_____ are pieces missing.

8. My dogs often sleep in _____**their**_____ doghouse.