THE WRITING CENTER

## Words That Sound Alike

## Their - There - They're

- Their = (possessive) - their books
- There = that place - over there
- They're = they are


## We're - Where - Were

- We're = we are
- Where $=$ in what place
- Were $=(v e r b)-$ Where was Sally?


## Accept - Except

- Accept $=($ verb $)$ to receive, to agree - Ex: He accepted the bribe.
- Except $=($ preposition $)$ all but, other than - Ex: Everyone came, except Amy.


## Affect - Effect

- Affect $=(v e r b)$ to influence
- Will lack of sleep affect Susan's game?
- $\quad$ Effect $=$ (noun) result
- Will only two hours of sleep have an effect on Bill's game?
- Effect $=(v e r b)$ to cause, to accomplish
- It is possible to effect a change in this university.

To - Too - Two

- To = (preposition) - to the shore
- Too = also, very - too tired, also sick
- Two = 2


## Than - Then

- Than = used in comparison statements
- Jenna is richer than Leonard.
- Used in statements of preference
- Joe would rather dance than eat.
- Used in the sense of "beyond"
- Read more than the first paragraph.
- $\quad$ Then $=$ a time word - in the past
- He was fatter then.
- Next in time, space, order
- First study, then play.
- In that case, in addition, on the other hand
- When she sees it, then she will believe it.


## Its - It's

- Its = (possessive) - its paw
- It's = It is


## Sell - Sale

- Sell = (verb) to give up for money
- Bob sells tickets at the stadium.
- Sale $=$ (noun) transfer of ownership
- Bob is going to the sale.


## Your - You're

- Your = (possessive) - your hat
- You're = You are

