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Choosing the Right Word

Introduction

Tell students that they will be learning more about words in this unit and that they will be concentrating on choosing the best words for their writing. The English language is full of words that sound the same or sound similar. Some of these words are commonly misused. In order to communicate clearly, students should understand the correct usage of homophones and other commonly misused words.

Parent Letter

Include this sample parent letter in your classroom newsletter, on your website, or in your blog.

Dear Parents,

In our *Exploring English Grammar* book, we will be studying how to choose the correct word to use in different situations.

- » We will learn about homophones and how to use them correctly.
- » We will avoid using double negatives.
- » We will learn about words that are often misused and how to use them correctly.

Here are some activities to do with your student to help with what we are learning.

- » Read an interesting magazine article together. Then have your student circle homophones.
- » Encourage your student to use interesting words in writing. Praise his or her attempts at choosing the best words.

Thank you for your help at home!

Objective To correctly use the words *teach* and *learn* and *raise* and *rise*

Enrichment Expand your discussion of misused words to include other pairs such as *let* and *leave*, *sit* and *set*, and *lie* and *lay*.

Working with the Lesson

Remember Read and discuss this section. Look at the examples. Discuss the differences in the meanings of the words and have students come up with additional examples for each word. Review the past tense forms of these four words.

Think About Have the students work as a group, with a partner, or individually.

Read and Apply Read the directions as a class. Let students complete this section independently.

Write About Read the directions as a class. Have students complete this section independently. Allow time for students to share their paragraphs with the class.

Review Read the directions together. Then have students work independently to complete the activity. Review the answers as a class.

Lesson 4 More Misused Words

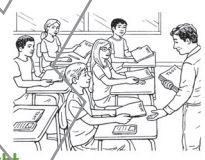
Remember The verb *teach* means “to give instruction.” The verb *learn* means “to receive instruction.”
Dillon will **teach** me to play guitar. I hope I can **learn** quickly.

The verb *raise* means “to lift up” or “to increase or collect.” It is a transitive verb. The verb *rise* means “to get up” or “to increase in amount.” It is an intransitive verb.
Alexis **raises** her hand to ask a question. She **raises** from her seat to speak.

Think About How can you remember the difference between *raise* and *rise*?
Answers will vary.

Read and Apply Read the sentences. Find the five misused words. Cross out each misused word and write the correct word above it.

Jaime Escalante taught math in a tough Los Angeles high school. When he began, most of his students knew little math. He **raised** the standards; he made them want to learn. He encouraged them, telling the students that they could rise out of poverty. Soon, Escalante’s students had **taught** as much as students in better schools. He **learned** one class a difficult form of math called calculus. In order for them to take an advanced calculus exam, Escalante **raised** the funds the students needed. Many of them passed the test. Each year, the number of students in his class **rose**. The students were eager to learn, and Escalante was excited to **teach** them. Many of his students went on to excel in college.



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Write About Write a paragraph about a teacher who made an impact on your life.
Answers will vary.

Review Read each sentence. Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

- The price of gas continues to [raise **rise**].
- Cody [**taught** learned] me to ride bike.
- Abby wants to [teach **learn**] to play the flute.
- Will you help me [**raise** rise] this banner over the stage?
- The cat [raised **rose**] from the windowsill and stretched.
- Mr. Nelson [**teaches** learns] his class about chemical elements.

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