Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Basic Writing Tips

Homophones:

*1. There, Their, and They’re*

*There* is used when talking about a place or idea.

* Mary set up the camping tent over *there*.
* What is *there* to talk about?

*Their* is used when talking about ownership.

* John and Mary love *their* new TV.

*They’re* is a contraction for *they are*. Hint: plug ‘*they are*’ into your sentence and see if it makes sense. If it doesn’t, you probably need to use either *there* or *their*.

* *They’re* such good friends.

*2. To, Too, and Two*

 *To* is used as a connection word in a sentence.

* Mary is going *to* feed her dog.

*Too* is used in place of the word *also* OR it can mean *a lot*.

* Ms. Carota’s class is challenging, but it is enlightening *too*.

*Two* is used when talking about the number 2.

*2. Pronouns*

The pronoun I is *always* capitalized.

‘i went shopping.’ is NEVER correct grammar. ☺

Even with contractions, the pronoun ‘I’ is *always* capitalized.

I’ve always loved ice cream. OR I’d never let my sister borrow my favorite shirt.

Is it *she and he* OR *her and him*?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ collect stamps. (Mary and John)

Is it *her and me* OR *she and I*?

Give the Halloween candy to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (her and me OR she and I)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ girls are going to the nail salon today. (We or Us)

Is it *We* OR *Us*?

*3. Verbs*

Verbs must be consistent – present tense OR past tense.

*4. Dad or dad? Father or father? Mom or mom? Mother or mother?*

Try this trick:

If your dad’s name is John, try plugging in his name in both sentences. They *should* make sense, and this is how you will know whether or not to capitalize or not.

* Mary gave my *dad* a birthday card. You would not say ‘Mary gave *my John* a birthday card’, so use a lowercase ‘d’ in this case.
* I gave *Dad* a birthday card. You can say, “I gave *John* a birthday card”, so use capital ‘D’ in this case.

Other examples:

* My *mother* is a great cook!
* My sister Sara gave *Dad* a hard time about going to bed last night.