

# 85 Lesson Launchers



*Commonly  
Confused  
Words*

**SAMPLE PAGE**

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# Introduction

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Walch Education's *85 Lesson Launchers* series is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. Use the 85 quick activities at the beginning of class to focus students on instruction; near the end of class to make good use of transitional time; in the middle of class to shift gears between lessons—or whenever you have minutes that now go unused. *85 Lesson Launchers* are a natural lead-in to more in-depth activities.

*85 Lesson Launchers* are easy to use. Simply photocopy the day's activity and distribute it. Or, make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. Use the activities for extra credit points or to check your students' skills as they are acquired and built over time.

*85 Lesson Launchers* are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular class lessons. Make every minute count!

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# affect, effect

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**affect** (vb)—to influence

Example: Your criticism **affects** people in a negative way.

**effect** (n)—the result of some action

Example: New Englanders have felt the **effect** of Mother Nature this winter.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. I don't think you realize how your comments (affect, effect) your friends.
2. The (affects, effects) of the storm were disastrous along the Louisiana coast.
3. That medicine did have an (affect, effect) on my headache.

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# because, since

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**Because** is always a conjunction; **since**, however, can be an adverb.

**since** (adv)—before now; from a point in the past until now

Example: Maria moved to New York to attend college and has lived there ever **since**.

If you remember **since** as an adverb, it will help you use the word correctly. In both of its uses, **since** refers to a time before the present that is linked to the present, whereas **because** signifies cause and effect.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. I have enjoyed sailing ever (because, since) I took a lesson at a local yacht club.
2. Maurice didn't pass the test (because, since) he didn't study.
3. (Because, Since) we had already purchased the tickets, we decided to take time for dinner before the concert.
4. (Because, Since) he joined the hockey team, my brother has been doing nothing but practicing skating backward.

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# complement, compliment

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**complement (n)**—that which makes whole or complete

Example: The dessert was a fine **complement** to a delicious meal.

**compliment (n)**—respect, affection, or esteem

Example: As an ambassador, Sergio paid his **compliments** to the queen.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. He offered a thoughtful (complement, compliment) to the essay finalists.
2. Akira realized his sentence wasn't correct without a (complement, compliment) to complete the last phrase.
3. To vote a rule change, the board of directors needed a full (complement, compliment) of members.
4. A good tip after a meal in a restaurant is a (complement, compliment) to the server.
5. (Complementary, Complimentary) angles make up an entire unit in geometry.

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# desert, dessert

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Recall that the noun **desert** is a dry or an arid area; the noun **dessert** is a dish served at the end of a meal. It may help to remember that you need a second **s** to spell **dessert**, just as you might enjoy a second helping of your favorite sweet treat.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. The bikers (deserted, desserted) their plans to ride because of the lightning storm.
2. The Sahara is one of the largest (deserts, desserts) in the world.
3. My favorite (desert, dessert) is unquestionably strawberry shortcake.
4. We (deserted, desserted) the plan to make pumpkin pie, since we were missing ingredients.
5. Marika was not prepared for the intensely dry, hot climate of the (desert, dessert).

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# different from, different than

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**Different from** is the proper phrase to use when comparing. Do not use **different than**. One thing differs from *another*; it does not *differ than*.

Example: Driving sober is quite **different from** driving drunk.

Example: The problems on the test will be **different from** those we did in the textbook.

Example: The thought process used in geometry is **different from** that used in algebra.

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Write two complete sentences, using **different from** in each one.

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STUDENT WORKSPACE

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# farther, further

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Remember that **farther** refers to distance, while **further** refers to time, degree, or extent. It may help to recall that the first three letters of **farther** spell *far*, a term usually used to describe a physical distance.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. The company has suspended (farther, further) negotiations for the contract.
2. The evidence was extensive and offered (farther, further) proof of the defendant's guilt.
3. I rode my bicycle (farther, further) down the road than Maggie did.
4. Hawaii is (farther, further) away than is Alaska.
5. There is no question we need (farther, further) review to be ready for the exam.

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# lay, lie

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**lay (vb)**—to put; to place something

Example: The baby **laid** his head down and immediately went to sleep.

Note: The present, past, and past participles are *lay*, *laid*, and *laid*.

**lie (vb)**—to recline or remain in a reclining position

Example: Linda has **lain** down for an afternoon nap every day of her long life.

Example: Yesterday, Linda **lay** down for her afternoon nap, as usual.

Note: The present, past, and past participles are *lie*, *lay*, and *lain*.

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Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. It was precisely at four P.M. that Melanie (lay, laid) down for a rest.
2. The biggest valleys we know (lie, lay) at the bottom of high mountains.
3. I cannot (lie, lay) down for a rest until the lawn is mowed.
4. The rebels (lay, laid) down their arms and surrendered the day before yesterday.

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# than, then

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Let's review. **Than** is used in a comparison, and **then** tells *when*. **Then** is easy to remember because it rhymes with *when*.

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Write a paragraph using **than** and **then** at least five times each. Use each word incorrectly once or twice in your paragraph. Give your paragraph to a classmate to read and correct any mistakes. Then when your paper is returned, make sure he or she found all the mistakes.

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STUDENT WORKSPACE

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# vice, vise

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Remember, **vice** is a bad habit or fault. A **vise** is a device that holds something in place. It may help you to remember that the wrong use of **vise** is in device.

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Now think of another trick to help you remember the meanings of **vice** and **vise**. Share your ideas with a classmate. It may be helpful to remember what **vice** means if you have examples and relate them to yourself. What are some of your vices? Think of as many examples as you can.

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STUDENT WORKSPACE

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# whose, who's

**whose** (adj, pronoun)—the possessive form of *who* that indicates ownership

Example: I don't care **whose** book this is; it needs to be covered. (adj)

Example: Mary, **whose** raincoat was missing, got soaked on the first day of school.  
(pronoun)

**who's**—contraction of *who is*

Example: **Who's** the winner of the raffle?

Circle the proper word to make the sentence correct.

1. Janice is the sophomore (whose, who's) representing the class at the board meeting.
2. Noah is the soccer player (whose, who's) jersey number is 62.
3. We need to know (whose, who's) fault the accident was so we can initiate legal action.
4. Tell me, (whose, who's) the one who put that graffiti on the back wall of the school?
5. We don't know (whose, who's) going to be the center on the basketball team.

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