Word Choice Detectives

Read a model text and track spellings that sound alike.

6.10.D.ix "correct spelling, including commonly confused terms such as its/it's, affect/effect, there/their/they're, and to/two/too; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every use of its/it's, affect/effect, there/their/they're, and to/two/too. This will help you notice how each spelling fits its meaning in the sentence.

Seeds at the Library

1 On Saturday, Maya visited the city library's seed swap. Its front table held packets of basil, beans, and marigolds. "It's helpful to label each packet," said Mr. Chen, the garden leader. He explained that clear labels affect whether gardeners choose seeds they can grow. The effect of one missing label can be a row of plants nobody expected. Maya wrote the plant names carefully before she placed the packets in baskets for visitors to take home.

2 Near the window, three students planned a pollinator garden. "Put the sunflowers there, beside the fence," Maya suggested. Their tall stems would give bees a clear landing place. "They're also bright enough for visitors to notice," said Luis. The group checked a map to see where water collected after rain. They chose a dry corner because soggy soil can harm sunflower roots. Then they added a sign that named the flowers and explained why pollinators visit them.

3 Before leaving, Maya took two tomato packets to the checkout desk. She wanted to share one with her neighbor, who was new to gardening. Mr. Chen reminded her to read the planting directions, too. The seeds needed warm soil and several hours of sunlight each day. Maya planned to start them indoors, then move the young plants outside after the weather became mild. She thanked the volunteers and promised to return to the library garden in June.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. The first paragraph uses affect and effect. Write the word that means “influence” and the word that means “result.”

2. In the first paragraph, which word shows ownership in “___ front table”? Which word is a contraction in “___ helpful,” and what two words does it mean?

3. In the second paragraph, identify the word that tells where the sunflowers should go, the word that shows ownership of the stems, and the contraction that means “they are.”

4. The final paragraph contains to, two, and too. What job does each spelling do in that paragraph?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four connected sentences about a school project. Use each of these spellings correctly at least once: its, it’s, affect, effect, there, their, they’re, to, two, and too. Underline every target word. Then reread your draft and check each target spelling against its meaning in the sentence. Keep correct choices and correct any errors. After the draft, explain one keep-or-correct decision with a reason. Use extra paper if needed.

ANSWER KEY

Word Choice Detectives

GRADE 6 · TEKS 6.10.D.ix

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every use of its/it's, affect/effect, there/their/they're, and to/two/too. This will help you notice how each spelling fits its meaning in the sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	The first paragraph uses affect and effect. Write the word that means "influence" and the word that means "result."	**affect means influence; effect means result.**
2	In the first paragraph, which word shows ownership in "___ front table"? Which word is a contraction in "___ helpful," and what two words does it mean?	**Its shows ownership. It's is a contraction for it is.**
3	In the second paragraph, identify the word that tells where the sunflowers should go, the word that shows ownership of the stems, and the contraction that means "they are."	**there tells location; their shows ownership; they're means they are.**
4	The final paragraph contains to, two, and too. What job does each spelling do in that paragraph?	**two names the number 2; too means also; to is used in phrases that show an action or direction.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class planned to build two birdhouses for the courtyard. Each house had a wide entrance in its design, and it's easy to paint. We learned that bright colors can affect the birds, so the effect may be fewer visitors. Put the finished houses there, near their food tray, because they're visible from the window, too.

Draft check: I kept "effect" because the sentence names a result. I kept "it's" because it means "it is".

For Part 3, accept varied topics if all ten spellings are used correctly, the response has four connected sentences, and the target words are underlined. Require the learner to reread and check the actual draft, retaining correct choices or correcting errors as needed and explaining one evidence-based decision. Check the draft separately from the check note; the note does not change the requested draft sentence count. A justified no-change decision is valid; do not require an error or a full rewrite.