

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 23
 READER'S NOTEBOOK

**Vaqueros: America's
 First Cowboys**
 Grammar: Easily Confused Verbs

Choosing the Right Word

To help you choose the correct word for a situation, try saying the sentence aloud. Memorize the meanings of easily confused words that sound alike. You can also check definitions in a dictionary.

affect (v.) to influence or cause a change

effect (n.) a result

few (adj.) small in number

less (adj.) small in amount

The fog will **affect** their ability to see the enemy.

The fog had no **effect** on their spirits, however.

Thinking Questions

What definition fits the sentence? What part of speech is needed?

Activity Write the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

- (There, Their, They're) are a lot of books in the library about the Mexican-American War. _____
- I found a book about the famous battles and (sit, set) it on the counter. _____
- I'm going to (sit, set) down on the chair and read about how Texas became a state. _____
- The librarian told us that each student (may, can) take out two books about the Gold Rush. _____
- This rule will (affect, effect) which books I decide to take home.

- This library has (few, less) biographies of cowboys. _____

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Grammar: Spiral Review

Prepositions

Prepositions are words that relate a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to the other words in a sentence. Most prepositions tell where things are in time and space.

The book was below the table.

John showed up after the horses were fed.

Prepositional phrases are phrases that begin with a preposition and end with the noun or pronoun that is the object of the preposition.

The book was below the table.

John showed up after the horses were fed.

Activity Underline all the prepositions in each sentence. Circle the prepositional phrases.

1. Luke rode his horse across the prairie with his friend Maria.
2. The weather is beautiful in New Mexico at this time of year.
3. He left the saddle on the ground and threw the bridle over it.
4. Robert fell asleep after dinner.
5. She climbed on the saddle and looked toward the horizon.
6. The young men cleaned the house before noon.
7. Luis left the campfire without his poncho.
8. The rattlesnake slithered through the grass.

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Connect to Writing

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Incorrect Word Choice	Correct Word Choice
Since there are less of us, we can sit our coats on the counter.	Since there are few of us, we can set our coats on the counter.

Activity Read the first paragraph of a persuasive essay. Circle the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

Rodeos are entertainment for millions of people. But (they're/ there/their) also a (good/well) way to keep the traditions of the vaqueros and cowboys alive. (They're/There/Their) are many sports in a rodeo, and each of them reflects the jobs that cowboys performed (good/well) for generations. For example, in a steer roping event, a cowboy (sitting/setting) on a horse, (rises/raises) a lasso and throws it at just the right moment to rope the steer. Many years ago, cowboys on the range used the same skills to round up cattle. Now, there are (fewer/less) cowboys than there once were. But rodeos carry on (they're/ there/their) traditions. The (affect/effect) is that cowboy culture lives on.

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Focus Trait: Organization

Using Supporting Details

**Vaqueros: America's
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Writing: Opinion Writing

Effective writers use precise details to support their statements. They also present those details in ways that are easy for readers to follow.

Without Details or Corrections	With Details and Corrections
The Aztecs were conquered by Cortez. Frank was studying the Aztec people. He read about their culture. They lived in Mexico and had power.	Because the subject interested him, Frank began studying the Aztec people of Mexico, who rose to great power. First, he read about their architecture and astronomy. Then he researched their conquest by Cortez of Spain in the sixteenth century.

A. Answer the following questions based on the passages above.

1. What supporting details does passage 2 use that passage 1 does not?

2. What important change has been made to the beginning of the passage?

B. Rewrite the following sentences to add details.

Pair/Share Work with a partner to brainstorm details.

3. Andrea had played the trumpet for four years. However, she didn't like it. By contrast, Olivia had played the tuba for two years and loved it.

4. The weather has been strange. It has been cold but has not damaged the crops.
