

CHAPTER 24: Commonly Confused Words

Answer Key

PRACTICE 1

1. Many people (buy, by) exotic animals for pets. Stop (buy, by) some pet stores, and you will see monkeys, snakes, and wild cats. For example, a capuchin monkey is (been, being) displayed at our local pet shop. The monkey has (being, been) on display for three weeks. Evan, a good friend of mine, wants to buy the monkey to (complement, compliment) his menagerie of exotic pets. Everyone, (accept, except) me, supports Evan's plan. I don't think that Evan would make a good monkey owner.

2. Capuchin monkeys are tiny and appealing creatures, but they are difficult to care (for, four). Owners must (accept, except) a change in lifestyle because the monkeys require a great deal of attention. For instance, it is difficult to take vacations because the monkeys cannot be left alone. Also, capuchins bond with their owners and are badly (affected, effected) (buy, by) change. They can suffer negative (effects, affects) if the original owner decides to sell the animal.

3. Certainly, people (compliment, complement) monkeys because the creatures are so cute and human-like. However, monkeys are expensive to house and feed. Those wanting to own monkeys must (accept, except) that they are making a serious long-term commitment.

PRACTICE 2

1. Snakes are (considered, considerate) dangerous creatures. Herpetologists, or people who study reptiles, (know, no) that not all snakes are dangerous. However, they are (conscience, conscious) that people, in general, fear snakes. (Its, It's) believed that there

are around 2,700 species of snakes in the world today.

2. In the fashion industry, (new, knew) trends are an (everyday, every day) occurrence.

Because many trends involve snakeskins, snakes are killed (everyday, every day).

Poachers (fine, find) and kill snakes for money. These criminals have (know, no)

(conscience, conscious) about their actions. They may receive a (find, fine) if they are

caught.

3. I never (new, knew) that people could buy poisonous snakes, but my friend bought one

two weeks ago. It ejects venom through (its, it's) fangs. Sometimes it makes (fun, funny)

noises. I'm not too crazy about the creature, but my friend has a lot of (fun, funny) with

his pet. He is a (considered, considerate) and gentle pet owner.

PRACTICE 3

1. India has many species of snakes, and laws have been ^{*passed*} past to protect them. One of the
C
best-known snakes in India is the cobra. It has been worshipped in the past and continues
^{*principal*}
to play a principle role in the Hindu religion today.

2. Nagpanchami is a religious festival to honor the cobra. It is based on Hindu religious
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principles in which nature plays an important role. On festival day, many people make a
^{*personal*}
personnel offering of milk to the cobra. Snake charmers wearing ^{*C*} loose clothing bring
^{*peace*}
snakes into villages and cities. Everyone prays for piece, and it is customary to eat ^{*C*} pieces
of sweets during the holiday.

3. Snakes are vital to the Indian economy. Without snakes, Indian farmers would ^{*lose*} lose a
large part of their crops to rodents. The farmers would not be able to withstand such a

loss
lost.

PRACTICE 4

1. One hundred years ago, parrots were (quiet, quite) common in tropical countries.

Today, (there, their, they're) are about 350 different types of parrots, each with a distinct size and appearance. With (there, their, they're) beautiful colors, parrots have become one of the most sought-after exotic animals.

2. Some people think (than, then, that) parrots are easy to maintain. In fact, parrots are more difficult to care for (than, then, that) many other bird species. For one thing, some types of parrots love to vocalize, so (there, their, they're) not ideal for owners who want peace and (quite, quiet). Parrots are social creatures (than, then, that) mate for life, and they become very attached to (there, their) owners. They do not like to (sit, set) in one place for long periods of time. Instead, (there, their, they're) happiest when being caressed or permitted to fly around a room. When owners ignore parrots, the birds can develop (quiet, quite) strange behavior. Sara Jorba, for example, rescued a parrot (than, then, that) had become selfdestructive. The bird, which had often (being, been) left alone, would pull out (its, it's) own feathers. With a lot of patience, Jorba managed to rehabilitate the bird.

3. In the (past, passed), people (taught, thought) that parrots simply mimicked human sounds. In fact, recent research has shown (than, then, that) parrots are capable of complex thinking. Irene Pepperberg began studying African gray parrots thirty years ago. (Than, Then, That), after many experiments, she published articles about them. She (taught, thought) a parrot named Alex to recognize about one hundred objects. Alex

could differentiate between colors, and he could even count. Pepperberg loves her job and would never (quite, quiet, quit). Nowadays, thanks to her research, gray parrots are (considered, considerate) the most intelligent bird species.

PRACTICE 5

1. (we're, were, where) We're learning a lot about chimpanzee intelligence. In Illinois, research scientists work with Bonono chimps. Ten years ago, the animals were put into a room where there were several computers. The chimps were able to use the machines to talk to humans.
2. (to, two, too) In a 1960 experiment, two scientists wanted to communicate with chimps. Allen and Beatrice Gardner knew that chimps would not be able to speak because their vocal cords are too high and too short. They decided to teach a chimp American Sign Language.
3. (threw, through, thorough) We sat outside a lab and watched spider monkeys through a window. The zoologist threw some food behind a door. The monkeys smelled the food and did a thorough search of their cage. Then one monkey noticed the door and reached through it to pick up the food. When the experiment was through, the zoologist rewarded the monkeys with more food.
4. (right, write) We plan to write an article about the monkey experiment. At the right time, we will present our paper to our instructor.
5. (who's, whose) A zoologist whose profession involves close contact with various species studies animal habitats. A friend of ours, who's an excellent zoologist, will receive government funding.
6. (your, you're) You're welcome to come with us to a presentation. You can bring your friend with you. If you're late, the presentation will start without you.

FINAL REVIEW

1. Recently, more and more pet owners have tried to purchase exotic animals. In many ^{buy} shops, people can ~~by~~ a variety of rats, snakes, and lizards. Ownership of exotic animals has become a passionately debated subject.
2. Some people believe that it is wrong to keep exotic animals as pets. They argue ^{that} ~~than~~

exotic animals need to be kept in ~~there~~ ^{their} natural environment. If they're caged, they will suffer. Furthermore, exotic animals have diseases that can be transmitted to humans. For example, scientists believe that Gambian pouch rats ~~where~~ ^{were} responsible for the monkeypox virus. Additionally, exotic animals are often released into the wild when ~~they're~~ ^{their} owners become tired of them. For example, Thomas Sawland, ~~whose~~ ^{who's} a fisherman, found the Chinese snakehead fish thriving in some lakes and killing native fish species. Unfortunately, many owners of exotic pets do not really ~~no~~ ^{know} how to take care of their animals because they have never been ~~thought~~ ^{taught}. For example, 90 percent of pet snakes die within the first year of captivity because they have been mistreated.

3. Owners of exotic pets state that ~~its~~ ^{it's} perfectly reasonable to keep such animals. Proponents say that ~~accept~~ ^{except} for the occasional case, most exotic pet owners are very responsible and have strong ~~principals~~ ^{principles}. Owners with a strong ~~conscience~~ ^{conscience} would never neglect their pets. Moreover, the sale of exotic pets is a huge and profitable business, and many business owners would ~~lose~~ ^{lose} their income if the sale of exotic pets were prohibited. Also, ~~everyday~~ ^{every day} some people abuse dogs and cats, but few people pressure the government to ban the ownership of such pets.

4. Lawmakers are hoping to ~~past~~ ^{pass} laws that limit the exotic animal market. Some people will support the legislation, and others will oppose it.