

ACTIVITY: "Grammar Goes to the X-Games" • SKILL: Commonly Confused Words

Then vs. Than

The words **then** and **than** are often confused and misused. Here's how to decide which word to use:

If you are describing time, use **then**.

Examples:

*First wash your hands, **then** set the table.*

*My life was a lot simpler back **then**.*

Then is also used in *if/then* statements.

Example:

*If you can't finish that, **then** I'll eat it!*

If you are making a comparison, use **than**.

Examples:

*Simon is taller **than** Sebastian.*

*Our math teacher said, "Geometry is more important **than** you might think."*

*Other **than** soccer practice, I have no plans for the weekend.*

Directions: Circle the correct boldface word in each sentence below.

1. Avi saw his first violin concert when he was 3 years old. Since **than/then**, he has been fascinated by stringed instruments.
2. Yanni would rather eat 20 pieces of broccoli **than/then** touch a single green bean.
3. Finish your homework, **than/then** we can go for a bike ride.
4. "Fluffy, no!" Mrs. Hall scolded, scooping the cat up. "You know better **than/then** to walk on the kitchen table."
5. For some people, staying away from chocolate is easier said **than/then** done.
6. "Don't forget," Shawna called, "we're meeting at the museum at five o'clock. I'll see you **than/then!**"
7. My little brother knows so much more about Star Wars **than/then** I do.

Directions: For each line below, combine the sentences into a single sentence using the word **then** or **than**.

8. Siri ran fast. Aisha ran faster.
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9. Put a half cup of flour in a bowl. Add two eggs. Stir until smooth.
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10. I like playing baseball. I would rather play soccer.
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