GrammarError.com

Usage Pairs

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Adjective | Comparative and superlative | Conditional sentence | Countable and uncountable | Determiner | Imperative mood | Infinitive | Irregular verb | Negation | Noun | Object | Past tense | Preposition | Present tense | Questions | Sentence | Verb | Simple tense

---

1. Help Dr. Fizzle complete his rather explosive laboratory report.

The green potion had an unexpected _____ on the laboratory mice. I strongly _____ my assistant to double-check the cages tonight. If the door hinges are _____, the mice will escape and conquer the city!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** effect
- **B)** affect
- **C)** affection

Blank 2

- **A)** advise
- **B)** advice
- **C)** advising

Blank 3

- **A)** loose
- **B)** lose
- **C)** losing

2. Read the cat owner's dramatic diary entries about their lazy pet. Select ALL the sentences that use "lay" and "lie" correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Sir Fluffs-a-Lot likes to lie right on my computer keyboard when I am working.
- **B)** I always lay a soft blanket on his favorite chair so he doesn't scratch it.
- **C)** He lays on the sunny windowsill all afternoon, ignoring the mice.
- **D)** I usually lie my coffee cup on the desk, which is a big mistake around him.

3. Complete the food critic's dramatic review of the new alien-themed diner by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

The chef should definitely use _____ space-salt in the cosmic soup.
However, a surprising _____ of guests actually enjoyed the glowing green bread.
I found a plastic toy spaceship hidden _____ the many lettuce leaves in my salad.
I placed my napkin right _____ my plate and refused to eat another bite!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** less
- **B)** fewer
- **C)** few

Blank 2

- **A)** number
- **B)** amount
- **C)** sum

Blank 3

- **A)** among
- **B)** between
- **C)** middle

Blank 4

- **A)** beside
- **B)** besides
- **C)** next

4. Help Captain Comet review his new superhero fitness plan. Select ALL the sentences that use "fewer" and "less" correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Captain Comet needs to eat fewer donuts if he wants to fit into his spandex suit.
- **B)** He also needs to drink less soda during his late-night patrols.
- **C)** He should consume less donuts before flying at supersonic speeds.
- **D)** He requires fewer courage to fight villains now that he is stronger.

5. Choose the correct words to complete the spaceship captain's log entry.

We had to carefully navigate _____ two massive asteroids, and then divide the remaining rations _____ the fifty crew members.

Select one.

- **A)** among / between
- **B)** between / among
- **C)** between / between
- **D)** among / among

6. Review the mad scientist's laboratory notes. Select ALL the sentences that use "affect" and "effect" correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The shrinking potion had a hilarious effect on my assistant's shoes.
- **B)** Will the purple smoke affect the laboratory plants?
- **C)** I hope the recent explosion doesn't effect our annual funding.
- **D)** We still need to study the long-term affects of drinking liquid gold.

7. Complete the frustrated barista's rant to his coworker.

I have _____ patience for customers who demand _____ syrup pumps in their morning coffee.

Select one.

- **A)** less / fewer
- **B)** fewer / less
- **C)** less / less
- **D)** fewer / fewer

8. Help the forgetful wizard complete his frantic text messages to his roommate by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

Please _____ me your invisibility cloak for the weekend.
I had to _____ a regular coat yesterday, and it wasn't nearly as cool.
Also, the button on this coat is too _____, so it keeps falling off!
If I _____ the button, the coat's owner will be absolutely furious.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** lend
- **B)** borrow
- **C)** lending

Blank 2

- **A)** borrow
- **B)** lend
- **C)** borrowing

Blank 3

- **A)** loose
- **B)** lose
- **C)** loosely

Blank 4

- **A)** lose
- **B)** loose
- **C)** losing

9. Help Inspector Crumb complete his notes on the Great Bakery Heist.

The thief left _____ clues behind, so we have almost nothing to go on. We found a single muddy footprint _____ the cash register. _____ the missing chocolate chip cookies, a giant wedding cake was also stolen!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** few
- **B)** a few
- **C)** little

Blank 2

- **A)** beside
- **B)** besides
- **C)** among

Blank 3

- **A)** Besides
- **B)** Beside
- **C)** Between

10. Help the anxious cat owner complete the note for the pet sitter.

Every afternoon, Sir Fluffington likes to _____ on the sofa, so please _____ his favorite velvet blanket there before you leave.

Select one.

- **A)** lay / lie
- **B)** lay / lay
- **C)** lie / lay
- **D)** lie / lie