

That's Interesting!



A worksheet for adults to practise reading, writing, spelling and numbers.

Festival time



We all love a good festival and during the summer months in Ireland, we have a big choice. From music events to horse shows, a festival can be found in every part of the country.

Galway Races

Horse racing is one of the most popular sports in Ireland and one of the oldest racing festivals is **the Galway Races**. The first Galway Races can be traced as far back as 1869. Held every year in the last week of July, it is now the biggest and most popular race meeting in Ireland with more than 250,000 race goers attending every year.



Galway Races

All the top horses, with their jockeys and trainers, take part in the many races over the week. The biggest race is the Galway Plate which is always held on Wednesday. Race goers get all dressed up and on Thursday, which is known as "Ladies Day", women add beautiful hats to their outfits in the hope of winning the prize for the best dressed.

However, it is about more than just racing. As thousands of visitors flock to Galway, the whole city gets involved in "race week" as it is called. Pubs, restaurants and hotels are jam packed as good food, music, song and dance add to the occasion.

Rose of Tralee

Named after the Irish song, the **"Rose of Tralee"** is a festival that has been running since 1959. It is a five-day festival of music and street entertainment when thousands of visitors from home and abroad visit Tralee. This year it will be held from 14 to 18 August.

The main event of the festival is the competition for who will be chosen as the Rose for the year. The contestants are young women from all parts of the world who have been chosen to represent their country. Over two nights, each of the women will be interviewed on stage by Raidió Teilifís Éireann's (RTE's) Dáithí Ó Sé and Kathryn Thomas and the event will be broadcast live on RTE.



Rose of Tralee

Puck Fair

Puck Fair takes place in the small town of Killorglin in County Kerry on the 10, 11 and 12 of August every year. Regarded as the oldest festival in Ireland, the first fair can be traced back to the 1600's.

On day one of the festival, a wild, mountain, male goat, which is known as a puck, is declared the King of the Fair and a crown is placed on his head. He is then, brought through the town on the back of a lorry where he leads the parade. A queen of the fair is also chosen from among young local girls.

It is not known for certain why the fair is named in honour of a goat. It is believed that hundreds of years ago, a herd of goats ran down from the mountains to warn the people that an army of British soldiers were coming to raid the town. Others believe that the male goat was seen as a symbol of good luck for a good harvest in the coming year. In the past, the goat would be held for the three days of the festival, but now he only appears on the first evening and on the last day for a short period.



King Puck

The festival is filled with street entertainment, concerts, a funfair and, of course, a large outdoor market on the town's main street.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Fleadh Cheoil, which is the Irish name for festival of music, is a celebration of Irish music and culture that is held every year in the month of August. A different town is chosen to host the event every two years. It is a week-long festival of the best of Irish music, song and dance.

Musicians and singers from all over the world come to take part in competitions. These musicians will already have won awards in their own country, county and province which has earned them the chance to take part in the all-Ireland finals. Music sessions can be heard in every pub, hall and street corner. Concerts and dances are held each night. This year it will be held in Belfast from 2 to 9 August. It is expected that more than half a million people will attend the event over the week.



Fleadh Cheoil

Lisdoonvarna

Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival has been going since the 1800's. The festival takes place during the entire month of September when the small town of Lisdoonvarna in County Clare, comes alive with dancing and singsongs every day from early in the morning until late in the evening. As many as sixty thousand people visit and enjoy the festival every year, many hoping to meet a partner.

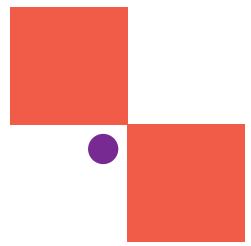
In the past, it was attended mostly by people from the farming community. September was their rest month after the busy summer season. They would visit the local matchmaker who had an office in the centre of the small town. The matchmaker, named Willie Daly, had a book known as the Matchmaking book, in which he held all the personal details of anyone wanting a match. He was very successful and over the years many hundreds of couples met in Lisdoonvarna.



Matchmaker, Willie Daly with the famous book

Today the great grandson of Willie Daly, also called Willie Daly, is continuing the matchmaking tradition and he still has the same famous book, now believed to be 150 years old. He said the book brings luck and love to people, by touching it with both hands and closing their eyes while thinking about love. He said those who want to are likely to find love or be married within six months.

Words that sound the same



There, Their and They're

there is used in 2 ways:

- To say where something is placed.
Example: The bank is over **there**.
- It is used with 'is' and 'are'.
Example:
There is a hole in my shoe.
There are seven days in a week.

their is used for something that belongs to them.

Examples:

- They parked **their car** outside.
- **Their house** is lovely.

they're is short for 'they are'

Examples:

- **They're** coming to see us.
- I know them, but **they're** not my friends.

Two, Too and To

two is how you write the number 2.

Example:

- I am going away for **two** nights.
- I have **two** dogs.

too is used in 2 ways:

1. Instead of also, or as well.

Examples:

- I like apples and I like grapes **too**.
- Mary is coming to the cinema **too**.

2. To say there's more than enough of something.

Examples:

- I was **too tired**, so I didn't go out.
- That coat is **too expensive**.

to is used in 2 ways:

1. Before an action word.

Example: I love **to** sing.

2. To show direction.

Examples:

- I am going **to** a party in town.
- She gave a card **to** her friend.

Fill in the blanks



Fill in the blanks using **two**, **too** or **to**.

Mary has _____ dogs, _____ cats and a goldfish _____ .

Her friends tell her she has _____ many animals in her house.

She said the house would be _____ quiet without them.

Every morning she has _____ bring the _____ dogs for a walk _____ the park.

Sometimes the dog next door comes along _____ .

The cats just lie on their _____ rugs in front of the fire.

Mary has _____ kennels in her back garden for the dogs _____ sleep in.

She would love to have a few hens _____ .

However, her garden is _____ small and anyway, the dogs would not be _____ happy with hens running around.

Fill in the blanks using **there**, **their** or **they're**.

1. Tell them to hang up _____ coats.

2. Please stand over _____ .

3. _____ car is parked outside.

4. _____ is a mouse in the house.

5. _____ great friends.

6. Joe is always _____ on time.

7. They take _____ dog for a walk.

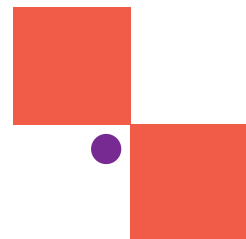
8. Ask them if _____ ready to go.

9. _____ children are all grown up.

10. _____ are 12 months in a year.

11. Tell them to leave _____ dirty boots outside.

Summer activities



1. Choose the correct spelling of the words in each sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. Stand over (**there** / their).
2. I am just (too / two) tired to do anymore.
3. Do you (no / know) his name?
4. I must get my (hare / hair) cut.
5. Can you (hear / here) the birds singing?
6. I need to buy a (pear / pair) of shoes.
7. Is my answer (write / right)?
8. Will you (write / right) down your name please?
9. Good (look / luck) in the exams.
10. She (taught / thought) me how to drive.
11. He (sent / scent) me a letter.
12. I dug a (whole / hole) in the garden.

3. The answers to all these clues start with **Sh**.

1. It travels by sea. S h i p
2. You find sea sh ____ on the beach.
3. A square is a sh ____.
4. Every morning I like to have a cold sh ____.
5. The opposite to long is sh ____.
6. An animal with a white woolly coat is a sh ____.
7. A knife is very sh ____.
8. I keep my tools in the garden sh ____.
9. On a hot day the sun always sh ____.
10. Can you sh __ me the way?
11. I put my books on the top sh ____.

2. See how many words you can make using the letters in the word below.

heatwave

hate what _____

4. Put the correct prefix in front of each word below to show the opposite meaning.

dis mis un

- agree disagree
- happy _____
- honest _____
- understood _____
- healthy _____
- believable _____
- appear _____
- own _____
- lead _____
- place _____

Answers Exercise 3

1. there, 2. too, 3. know, 4. hair, 5. hear
Taught, 11. sent 12. hole
6. pair 7. right 8. Write 9. luck, 10.

Notes



Further help is available

If you need help with these worksheets, or with reading, writing, maths or digital skills, you can contact the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).



Call us on Freephone **1 800 20 20 65**

You can study online on our Learn with NALA website www.learnwithnala.ie or with a tutor over the phone, or we can give details of your local training options.



National Adult Literacy Agency

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