**To**

**Too**

**Two**

These three words are homophones, meaning that they sound alike even though they historically come from different sources and have different meanings.

**To**is the word we use when we talk about going ***towards*** something. It might help you to

remember its spelling, if you think of it as the beginning letters of *towards*. We also use *to*

when we say such things as *to run, to rain, to consider, to tell*.

**Too**is used to mean more than enough, as in, “I am *too* tired to stay for any longer.” Some

people remember this spelling by thinking that the two *o’s* in its spelling are ***too*** many.

**Two**is the way to spell the name of the number 2. One way to remember that the word with the *w* in it is the number is to think of other words starting with *tw* that mean *two*. *Twins* is one such word. *Tweezers* have two parts, *twilight* has light from the day and the

night, and if you are *betwixt* and *between*, you are caught between *two* choices.

**PRACTICE EXERCISE**

**In the following sentences that tell the story of an ill-fated shopping trip, write the**

**correct *two, too,* or *to* in the blank spaces.**

1. The other day I went \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the shop.

2. While I was there I bought a shirt and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pairs of shoes.

3. I went \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the till \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pay.

4. As I was leaving the shop the bag broke open because it was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thin.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ people ran over \_\_\_\_ help me but it was \_\_\_ late.

6. The shoes and shirt fell through the hole in the bottom of the bag and crashed onto the floor. Customers tried \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_help, but there was nothing they could do when someone accidentally stepped on the shirt and got it dirty.

7. The manager came over\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ talk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me and explain that their new plastic bags are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ use for heavy items like shoes.

8. He said it was a good idea \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ double-bag bigger packages.

9. Now when I go \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ town to shop, I am always ready \_\_\_\_\_\_ make sure that the employees use \_\_\_\_\_\_ bags instead of one, just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_be safe.

10. I’ve told all my friends \_\_\_\_\_\_do this \_\_\_\_\_!

Answers: 1. to, 2. two, 3. to, to, 4. too, 5. two, to, too, 6. to, 7. to, to, too, to, 8. to, 9. to, to, two, to.

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