



They're not too tricky!

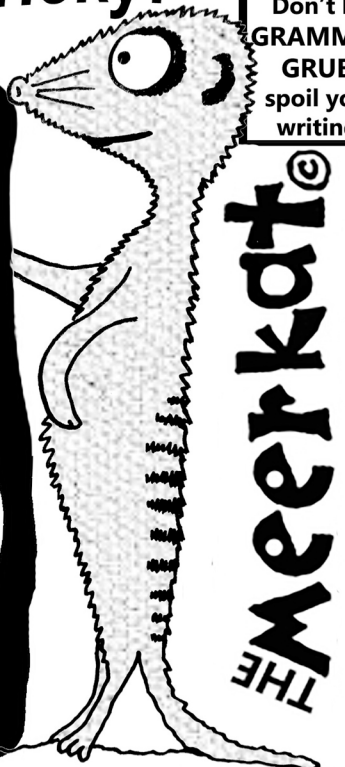
Don't let
GRAMMAR
GRUBS
spoil your
writing!

GRAMMAR GRUB TIPSHEET NO. 4

there
is the opposite of "here"

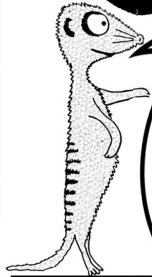
their
means "belonging to them"

they're
is short for "they are"



THE **meerkat**®

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GRAMMAR GRUBS



They're
over there
with their
tails in the
air.

they're over there = **they are** over there

there = where they are

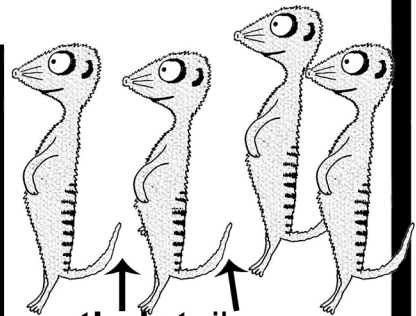
their tails = the tails that belong to them

there

- often starts sentences.
E.g. There is... There was... There are...
- is the opposite of "**here**" and its spelling contains that word; **there**.
- can't go before a noun/noun phrase (a thing).*

~~there hats~~ ~~there new books~~
their hats ✓ **their new books** ✓

*Except in a question like "Are there hot buns for lunch?"



their tails

Consider the meanings of:
There are tame meerkats.
Their meerkats are tame.
They're tame meerkats.

Not sure? Just think:
Would "THEY ARE" work in my sentence?
If yes, use THEY'RE. If no...
Are you describing something that belongs to "THEM"?
If yes, use THEIR.

