

Name: _____

Commonly Confused Words: Shear vs. Sheer

Shear and *sheer* sound alike, but their meanings are different.

Shear is used as a verb meaning to cut or clip hair or wool. It is sometimes used as a noun meaning the act of cutting of the hair or wool or something that is cut off. When it is plural, it means scissors.

Example 1: They **shear** the sheep and sell the wool.

Example 2: The visitors arrived in time to see the **shear**.

Shear
?
Sheer

Sheer may be an adjective, adverb or a verb. When it is an adjective, it means very thin and transparent, or it means steep. As an adverb it means complete or total. When it is used as a verb, it means to swerve.

Example 1: The widow wore a **sheer** black veil over her face.

Example 2: The almost fell over the **sheer** cliff.

Example 3: The **sheer** stupidity of the remark made Eva angry.

Example 4: A reckless driver may **sheer** off course.

Choose *shear* or *sheer* to complete each sentence.

1. Carol made it through the class by _____ determination.
2. Josh was assigned to _____ the sheep.
3. They could see the inside of the house through the _____ drapes.
4. Michael looked down the _____ drop and felt dizzy.
5. We walked toward the shed where they _____ the sheep.
6. When he enters the army, they will _____ his head.
7. It's a dangerous road because many cars _____ on the curve.
8. The spring _____ was a great success.
9. It was _____ hunger that made the stray dog come into the camp.
10. It's very dusty when they _____ the animals.

Name: _____ **Key**

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