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Mix it up with

Photo: Jaroslav Moravcik (Shutterstock)If you’ve ever had to stop and ask yourself, “is it easier said than done, or easier said then done,” you are not alone. We probably don’t think about “than” versus “then” too often when we’re speaking because they sound so similar anyway. When we’re writing, though, these two little words, which look and function so similarly, can trip us up. But you can learn to master them. First, we’ll talk about how they’re different, and then we’ll come up with a little mnemonic device to actually remember which one to use. But simply put, “than” is used to help us compare things; “then” is used when referring to something relating to time. ThanThan serves primarily as a conjunction (and, less often, as a preposition) when we’re making comparisons. Krispy Kreme’s doughnuts are better than Dunkin’s donuts. Places, people, or things can be greater than, bigger than, farther than, or richer than others. So yes, keeping this straight might be easier said than done, but we’re working on it—and we’re smarter than we might think. Plus, we’d rather learn the difference than go through the rest of our lives using them wrong. Who here knows when to use “who” and when to use “whom”? For whom am I writing this post? For those Read more!ThenOkay then—it’s time for then. Then is an adverb, noun, or adjective that grounds us in time. Once we learn the difference, then we’ll be able to move on with our lives. Until then, we’ll just practice a bit. Use “then” in phrases like just then, since then, back then, even then, and every now and then. Of course, this is the English language, which means there’s always an exception, as Merriam-Webster points out.In a handful of cases, though, than is used to say that something happens immediately after something else—that is, it’s used when you’re talking about something relating to time. So in “No sooner had I explained the rule than an exception came to mind,” it’s than not then that’s required. And also in hardly had I explained it than and scarcely had I explained it than.A trick to remember the differencecIt’s still easy to get a bit tripped up, so if you’re trying to remember which is the “time” word and which is the “comparison” word, the answer is in the words themselves. Then and time both have Es; than and comparison both have As.Want more grammar posts? We’ve got more grammar posts. Every item on this page was curated by an ELLE Decor editor. We may earn commission on some of the items you choose to buy. Jul 30, 2010 Photographer: Simon Upton 1 of 12 In the Mix Keith Johnson and Glen Senk’s 1912 Dutch Colonial house in Philadelphia is filled with a mélange of international finds. In the living room, an antique English sofa and chairs are covered in Rogers & Goffigon fabrics; a century-old copper-and-brass radiator is mounted above the mantel. 2 of 12 In the Mix Johnson and Senk with their corgi Cosmo on the breakfast terrace. 3 of 12 In the Mix A wall panel made of old cow-shed flooring hangs above a circa-1750 French monastery table. 4 of 12 In the Mix The living room’s decor includes a circa-1820 English Regency sofa, an English campaign chair, and a 19th-century English Act of Parliament tavern clock. 5 of 12 An exterior view of the house; Margie Ruddick did the landscape design. 6 of 12 The marble-and-oak kitchen island is a replica of one at La Mirande hotel in Avignon; the vintage grape-collecting basket is from the Champagne valley. 7 of 12 In the Mix A 1920s English Folk Art iron Windsor chair and an Art Deco radiator in the front hall. 8 of 12 In the office, an iMac and a 1950s Italian prototype lamp on a circa-1840 English Gothic oak-and-ash table. 9 of 12 In the Mix Nineteenth-century French street lanterns dangle above the dining room’s 1860s English mahogany table. 10 of 12 Circa-1920 American school maps hang in the master bathroom, which is painted a Donald Kaufman red; the tub fittings are by Lefroy Brooks. 11 of 12 In the Mix The guest room’s 18th-century French peasant wedding bed is backed by a collection of antique framed toile fabrics; the quilt is 18th-century Provençal. Advertisement - Continue Reading Below This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Inspiring Ideas for Living Rooms House Tours Design + Decorate Every item on this page was hand-picked by a House Beautiful editor. We may earn commission on some of the items you choose to buy. Decorate with patterns the right way. 1 of 6 Build Upon One Bold Pattern The existing striped floors were the stepping-off point in this East Hampton beach house’s living room. Then, designer David Mitchell layered different patterns such as gingham, florals, and toile, but kept a neutral color theme in a range of browns, khakis, and beiges. "Now it's all about pattern and contrast," Mitchell says. "Here, we're telling a story about pattern in texture in a range of colors." 2 of 6 Balance Scale Your patterns need to complement one another, so if one is bold, the other shouldn't be too busy. In the kitchen dining area of this Charlotte, North Carolina, house, designer Lindsey Coral Harper transformed dark brown floors with a large geometric pattern, painted by Jay C. Lohmann. "We kept the pattern clean and simple because the ikat on the sofa is so busy," Harper says. She also brightened the space with Benjamin Moore's Inner Glow on the walls and a citron table from HB Home. 3 of 6 Soften Prints with Solids Designer Ashley Whittaker combined patterns in a Greenwich, Connecticut, sunroom to give it more of a lived-in look. "I always tell clients not to be scared of pattern," she says. "They'll look at six-by-six-inch swatches tightly clustered on a table and say, 'ooh, wow... that seems like a lot.' Of course I interspersed them with solids and neutrals." 4 of 6 Think of Polka Dots as a Neutral Designer Krista Ewart used multiple shades of green, punctuated with a pair of upholstered stools, to create a cozy window seat in the living room of a Balboa Island, California, cottage. The polka-dot pattern on the stools acts as non-print. "I use a polka-dot fabric like a solid, but it's a solid with movement," Ewart says. "It excites your eye." 5 of 6 Don't Over-Coordinate This Ojai, California, living room is awash with bright orange and bold patterns. "Don't go for matchy-matchy-matchy," designer Kathryn M. Ireland says. "I say, if it doesn't go, it goes." 6 of 6 Blend Similar Patterns If you're nervous about using patterns, start off with similar patterns such as the blue-and-white florals in this Fort Wayne, Indiana, guest bedroom. "I chose the large-scale, stronger blue one first and put it on the walls where you could really enjoy it. Then I put the smaller-scale, slightly faded pattern on the bed and chair to give a bit of relief for the eye and to highlight the shapes of the tufted furniture." Markham Roberts says. The walls are covered in Waverly's Lightfoot House Companion and the bed and chair are upholstered in Bennison's Chinese Paper. 10 Spring-Inspired Spaces Advertisement - Continue Reading Below This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Designer Tips How To Renovate Photo by Gridley + Graves Toss velvet, porcelain, and leopard prints together and you get a whole new deal. With the popularity of mobile games like Pokemon Go and devices such as Oculus Rift and HTC Vive, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) have become mainstream. But what is mixed reality (MR) and how is it different from other visual display technologies? The best way to describe it is as a blend of augmented reality and virtual reality technologies. AR, VR, and MR are similar in a lot of ways, but each has distinct qualities and uses. AR overlays digital objects onto the real world. The technology is in smart glasses, which overlay information on a display, such as weather forecasts or navigation. AR content is usually not anchored in space and will often move as the user turns. VR makes use of a headset to immerse users in an entirely virtual environment. Users will commonly use handheld controllers to interact with digital objects. Assets within the world can also be anchored in space, though it's not a necessity. MR makes use of a headset to overlay computer-generated assets on real-world environments. Those virtual objects are also anchored in space, allowing the wearer to view them from multiple angles. Assets can also be designed to react to a user's physical gestures or a hardware controller. MR headsets keep the wearer's hands free to perform physical tasks. And because virtual items appear in real-world space, the technology is well-suited to working environments. For example, repair animations can be superimposed over actual machinery, showing the user how to connect parts. Additionally, MR works well for entertainment purposes. Games can incorporate nearby objects like tables and other surfaces to create more realistic gameplay than is possible with AR. An excellent example of this is firing lasers at aliens that come through walls or searching for virtual animals hiding under desks. Though MR technology is relatively new, several manufacturers are developing and releasing their own devices. Magic Leap Magic Leap One comprises a headset that pairs with a lightweight computer module. Digital objects project onto the headset lenses, which the wearer interacts with using handheld controllers. Magic Leap primarily focuses on entertainment experiences such as watching a virtual TV screen or playing games that make use of the physical space. Microsoft Microsoft's HoloLens is a Windows mixed reality headset that focuses primarily on industrial uses. Similar to Magic Leap One, digital assets are projected onto a transparent visor, creating the illusion of virtual objects in the real world. Wearers are then able to interact with virtual objects and displays using a variety of gestures. While MR is a nascent technology, the signals from technology giants such as Qualcomm, Microsoft, and Intel are promising. All are investing heavily in MR technology, developing underlying systems and programming tools in the hope of unlocking its full potential. And when placed alongside AR and VR, it seems clear MR stands a good chance of becoming core to the next wave of computing. Thanks for letting us know! Tell us why! Some chemicals shouldn't be mixed together. In fact, these chemicals shouldn't even be stored near each other on the chance that an accident could occur and the chemicals could react. Be sure to keep incompatibilities in mind when reusing containers to store other chemicals. It's dangerous to randomly mix chemicals together. Some chemicals react explosively, while other form toxic products. In general, never mix bleach with any other chemical unless the other product states that it's safe to use with bleach. Similarly, avoid mixing oxidizers, like peroxide, with other chemicals. Here are some examples of mixtures to avoid: Acids with cyanide salts or cyanide solution. Generates highly toxic hydrogen cyanide gas. Acids with sulfide salts or sulfide solutions. Generates highly toxic hydrogen sulfide gas. Acids with bleach. Generates highly toxic chlorine gas. An example of this would be mixing bleach and vinegar. Ammonia with bleach. Releases toxic chloramine vapors. Oxidizing acids (e.g., nitric acid, perchloric acid) with combustible materials (e.g., paper, alcohols, other common solvents). May result in a fire. Solid oxidizers (e.g., permanganates, iodates, nitrates) with combustible materials (e.g., paper, alcohols, other common solvents). May result in a fire. Hydrides (e.g., sodium hydride) with water. May form flammable hydrogen gas. Phosphides (e.g., sodium phosphide) with water. May form highly toxic phosphine gas. Silver salts with ammonia in the presence of a strong base. May generate an explosively unstable solid. Alkali metals (e.g., sodium, potassium) with water. May form flammable hydrogen gas. Oxidizing agents (e.g., nitric acid) with reducing agents (e.g., hydrazine). May cause fires or explosions. Unsaturated compounds (e.g., substances containing carbonyls or double bonds) in the presence of acids or bases. May polymerize violently. Hydrogen peroxide/acetone mixtures when heated in the presence of an acid. May cause explosions. Hydrogen peroxide/acetic acid mixtures. May explode upon heating. Hydrogen peroxide/sulfuric acid mixtures. May spontaneously detonate. Products that react strongly with other chemicals or that produce toxins are labelled. It's important to read labels and heed warnings regarding storage and potentially dangerous reactions. In a laboratory setting, chemical storage is a big deal. Special cabinets isolate reactive chemicals from one another. At home, most people put chemicals under the sink or in the garage. For the most part, this is reasonably safe, but it's worth keeping products that don't play nice together separate. Always heed warnings about storage temperature conditions, too. Some chemicals decompose at high temperatures, so that even if the original chemical isn't hazardous, it turns into something reactive. While it may seem like chemistry is a good science to learn through experimentation, it's never a good idea to randomly mix together chemicals to see what you'll get. Household chemicals aren't any safer than lab chemicals. In particular, you should use care when dealing with cleaners and disinfectants, since these are common products that react with each other to yield nasty results. It's a good rule of thumb to avoid mixing bleach or peroxide with any other chemical, unless you're following a documented procedure, are wearing protective gear, and are working under a fume hood or outdoors. Note that many chemical mixtures produce toxic or flammable gases. Even in the home, it's important to have a fire extinguisher handy and work with ventilation. Use caution performing any chemical reaction near an open flame or heat source. In the lab, avoid mixing chemicals near burners. At home, avoid mixing chemicals near burners, heaters, and open flames. This includes pilot lights for ovens, fireplaces, and water heaters. While it's common to label chemicals and store them separately in a lab, it's also good practice to do this in a home. For example, don't store muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid) with peroxide. Avoid storing household bleach together with peroxide and acetone. Brown, Theodore L.; LeMay, H.; Bursten, Bruce E.; Murphy, Catherine; Woodward, Patrick; Stolzfus, Matthew (2017). Chemistry: The Central Science (14th ed.). US: Pearson Education. ISBN 978-0134414232. Gail, E.; Gos, S.; Kulzer, R.; Lorösch, J.; Rubo, A.; Sauer, M. "Cyano Compounds, Inorganic". Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry. Weinheim: Wiley-VCH. doi:10.1002/14356007.a08_159.pub2 Lawrence, Stephen A. (2004). Amines: Synthesis, Properties and Applications. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521782845. NSW Government. "Controlling chloramines in indoor swimming pools". Odabasi, Mustafa (March 2008). "Halogenated Volatile Organic Compounds from the Use of Chlorine-Bleach-Containing Household Products". Environmental Science & Technology. 42 (5): 1445–1451. doi:10.1021/es702355u

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