

## *The Proper Use of Then/Than*

Then (Draw your mouth back a little and “smile” as you say it.)

Rhymes with when and been and fin.

1. At that time:
  - The olden days were much better because people knew how to act then.  
(at that time)
  - First we ate dinner, and then we went for a walk.  
(at that time)
2. Sometimes used after an IF clause to mean “as a result.”
  - If it rains, then we can’t go out.

Than (Drop your chin down about an inch as you say it.)

Rhymes with man and fan and can.

1. Used to compare two things or people to each other.
  - Chicago is larger than Carbondale.
  - Joe is taller than Bill.
2. Often used right after or near the word *rather*.
  - I’d rather eat a full meal than snack on chips.
  - Rather than just snack on chips, I’d prefer eating a full meal.

Fill in the blank with then or than:

1. Why don’t we share this pie? \_\_\_\_\_ we can each have some.
2. So you saw the robber running from the store. What did you do \_\_\_\_\_?
3. There is more crime now \_\_\_\_\_ there used to be.
4. Are the Rockefellers richer \_\_\_\_\_ the Kennedys?
5. If you study hard and do your homework, \_\_\_\_\_ you should pass.
6. When I see the leaves change colors and when I feel the slight nip in the air, \_\_\_\_\_ I know that fall has arrived.

7. If you read the daily newspaper, \_\_\_\_\_ you will realize that truth really is stranger \_\_\_\_\_ fiction.
8. Rather \_\_\_\_\_ fight each other, nations should talk out their problems.
9. Alaska is larger \_\_\_\_\_ any other state.
10. Superman is faster \_\_\_\_\_ a speeding bullet.