

# Connect to Writing

**Vaqueros: America's  
First Cowboys**  
Grammar: Easily Confused Verbs

## Incorrect Word Choice

Since there are **less** of us, we can **sit** our coats on the counter.

## Correct Word Choice

Since there are **few** of us, we can **set** our coats on the counter.

**Activity** Read the first paragraph of a persuasive essay. Circle the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

Rodeos are entertainment for millions of people. But (they're/there/their) also a (good/well) way to keep the traditions of the vaqueros and cowboys alive. (They're/There/Their) are many sports in a rodeo, and each of them reflects the jobs that cowboys performed (good/well) for generations. For example, in a steer roping event, a cowboy (sitting/setting) on a horse, (rises/raises) a lasso and throws it at just the right moment to rope the steer. Many years ago, cowboys on the range used the same skills to round up cattle. Now, there are (fewer/less) cowboys than there once were. But rodeos carry on (they're/there/their) traditions. The (affect/effect) is that cowboy culture lives on.