

Unit C4i-A [w] worse—[v] verse

Story

Listen to the story as your teacher reads it, or on tape, until you understand the main ideas.

My neighbor Wendy is an accomplished writer. She likes anything that has to do with words, but she particularly likes poetry. She has written and published many poems of her own. Some of her verse has even been put to music.

Sometimes I see myself as a poet. I have written a few poems, and once I asked Wendy to evaluate them. She did, but she was not favorably impressed. She kindly told me I needed to revise them.

So, I spent many hours trying to improve my poetry. I struggled to use just the right words. It was not easy to create the right images, rhythm, and rhyme. Unfortunately, all my hard work didn't help very much. When Wendy read my revised poems, she told me that they were (1) **worse**. I almost gave up at that point, but I decided to stick with my vision. I vowed that someday my poetry would win Wendy's approval.

For several more weeks I worked on my poems. Then I showed them to Wendy again. This time the outcome was different. My extra work had not been in vain. Although I was still far from being a poetry virtuoso, Wendy was very happy with my improvements and exclaimed, "Now, that's (2) **verse**!"

**Contrasting Sentences**

Listening: Write the appropriate key word in each blank. Later, as you hear each sentence, mark the box, point to the picture, make a gesture, and/or say the rejoinder. Speaking: Choose and say each sentence so that your listener(s) can respond correctly.

- That's _____. (not as good)
- That's _____. (poetry)