

Series of LWSs based on Dirty John podcast. LWS 6, mostly based on ep. Filthy. PART 1



1. Read, listen, \_\_\_\_\_, drag and drop

hastily cleared her things  
an intestinal blockage                      living out of hotels  
from multiple women  
a series of fabrications  
had married a stranger

In March 2015, Debra Newell realized she \_\_\_\_\_, a man whose past was \_\_\_\_\_ . John had seemed desperately in love with her. She hadn't listened when her family told her his stories didn't add up, but now she had proof... police reports, restraining orders \_\_\_\_\_, jail and prison records. He was a serial con man, a master of intimidation and, according to the records, he had a nickname that went way back, Dirty John.

Debra \_\_\_\_\_ out of the Balboa Island house they shared. She had to walk away from \$50,000 she'd paid on the year-long lease. She began \_\_\_\_\_, hiding. John was stuck in the hospital after back surgery with \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Listen and complete \_\_\_\_\_

He began texting her \_\_\_\_\_ that she could not \_\_\_\_\_.

That she had hit him, that she'd stolen \$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_.

He threatened to call \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_ to her.

He had seduced her with lavish, \_\_\_\_\_ about her beauty.

Now he denigrated her looks, \_\_\_\_\_ her age, \_\_\_\_\_ her attempts to stay attractive at 59.

"Five marriages and a family that hates you. You want to see how this plays out? I sure do. You want to see how bad this turns out? \_\_\_\_\_."

"You \_\_\_\_\_ me," she replied, "Enough. You're evil."

He had come into the marriage \_\_\_\_\_. She ran a \_\_\_\_\_ business.

His motive was \_\_\_\_\_,

"Divide up the stuff and I never see you again," he wrote, "your choice." He said people he knew in the mafia had contacted him; long-lost relatives. He warned her, "Be careful here."

### 3. Find in 1 and 2 words and collocations matching the definitions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (n, pl.) – inventions; lies
- a \_\_\_\_\_ (2wds) – a document that details all of the facts, circumstances, and timeline of events surrounding an incident
- a \_\_\_\_\_ (2wds) a temporary court order issued to prohibit an individual from carrying out a particular action, especially approaching or contacting a specified person
- \_\_\_\_\_ (adj) –happening several times in the same way
- \_\_\_\_\_ (adj) – sumptuously rich, elaborate, or luxurious
- to \_\_\_\_\_ (v) – criticize unfairly
- \_\_\_\_\_ (adj) – successful in material terms; flourishing financially

### 4. Listen and answer the question: What did the kids do for money in the Diamond Wheel Casino?

Read the transcript and try to remember the synonyms for the red words:

#### work the system DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

PHRASE

DEFINITIONS 1

1 to do or get what you want despite the rules that make it difficult

*Government workers know how easy it is to work the system.*

**Christopher:** I'm talking to Donna Meehan Stewart, one of John Meehan's sisters.

They grew up in San Jose, California where their Brooklyn raised dad ran the Diamond Wheel Casino. People came to play poker, low ball, and pan. The kids cleaned the floors and the ashtrays for money. Donna says that what John and his brother **soaked up** \_\_\_\_\_ from his father and the men around him was a set of **unlawful** \_\_\_\_\_ skills, like how to file **fake** \_\_\_\_\_ lawsuits and **succeed in** \_\_\_\_\_ insurance scams.

**Donna:** "This is how you go about doing things, **deceitfully** \_\_\_\_\_ and cheating," they taught those boys that. Both my brothers were that way. They knew how to work systems, they knew how to lie.



*Panguingue (pronounced pan-geen-ee), Tagalog Pangginggi, also known as Pan, is a 19th-century gambling card game probably of Philippine origin similar to rummy, first described in America in 1905. It used to be particularly popular in Las Vegas and other casinos in the American southwest. Its popularity has been waning, and it is now only found in a handful of casinos in California, in house games and at online poker sites. In California, it, and the low-ball version of poker, were the only games for*

*which it was legal to play for money.*

### 5. Put the lines in order, then shadow

\_\_\_\_\_ He wasn't groomed to take that and be successful and to help other people and be grateful that you were blessed with these gifts. Instead, he was taught to manipulate at a very early age. \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_ **Karen:** He was very popular because of his sports. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ And that's the fault of my parents, especially my dad because that's all my dad knew.



\_\_\_\_ **Christopher:** I'm trying to trace John Meehan's path from his childhood in San Jose to the day he lied and charmed his way into Debra Newell's life. I'm trying to find out what he wanted to hide.

\_\_\_\_ Then he was very good-looking, so he was a chick magnet. Had a lot of women, he had a lot of charisma. He learned, at a very young age, how to work it.

\_\_\_\_ **Karen Douvillier:** Growing up with John was hell. Maybe it was just sibling rivalry, but there was definitely issues with John. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I think John thought he was smarter than everybody else cause everybody told him he was, but he had no common sense. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ **Christopher:** This is John Meehan's other sister, Karen Douvillier. She went to Prospect High School with him in Saratoga, California in the mid-1970s. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ From as far back as I can remember, he was a straight A student. \_\_\_\_\_

***“Maybe it was just sibling rivalry, but there was definitely issues with John.”*** Let's read some discussion on there's+plural on Reddit

reddit.com/r/grammar/comments/1c9mao/theres\_plural/

Search Reddit

10 "There's" + plural

Posted by u/zeptimus 9 years ago

10 "There's" + plural

My girlfriend's niece (a non-native speaker) is learning English. She keeps correcting me when I say something like, 'There's lots of things you could do': 'No, "There *are* lots of things I could do".'

I get the feeling that 'there's' + plural is gaining ground fast in spoken English. Would you consider it acceptable in written English too?

Also, are there sentences where you have no choice but to use 'there's' with a plural, because 'there are' would not work? For example, take the following dialogue.

'I wonder who we could invite to our party.'

'Well, there's Jim and Jane, obviously.'

'I wonder who we could invite to our party.'

'Well, there are Jim and Jane, obviously.'

The second version sounds very strange to me, and definitely 'more wrong' than the first.

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Ezterhazy · 9 yr. ago

It's fine and common in an informal register in spoken English. In a formal register it is non-standard.

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share Report Save Follow



rocketman0739 · 9 yr. ago

Yes, this. Strictly speaking "there's Jim and Jane" is not quite correct, but in colloquial speech you don't need to worry about it.

I will say, though, that "there are Jim and Jane" is not quite as weird as OP seems to think.

↑ 5 ↓ Reply Share Report Save Follow

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[deleted] · 9 yr. ago

I'm pretty sure there's no getting around it. This is just wrong. Verbs and nouns must agree.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who cares about grammar who endorses this.



[deleted] · 9 yr. ago · edited 9 yr. ago

I began to notice this a while ago and I hate it personally. But there's no stopping it. It's simply easier to say and the contraction "there're" is not worth making. Using "there are" will never be incorrect, but we have to accept that "there's" is correct as well now.

↑ -1 ↓ Reply Share Report Save Follow



**WILLIAM AND DOLORES MEEHAN, John's parents**

## 6.Listen and do T/F \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The sisters say their mother had an affair with an airline pilot and their parents divorced. T F
- B. At the time, Karen was a high school sophomore and John was a freshman. T F
- C. And that's when John started to go really bad. T F
- D. It was a very bitter; it was a very angry divorce. T F
- E. They were the all American family, two boys and three girls. T F
- F. It was blown up and he just hated that man for destroying the family. T F
- G. Karen thinks John got caught in the wheel of dysfunction. T F