

# WORD CHOICE – EXERCISE 5: LOSS AND LOST

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*loss* or *lost*. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. A bolt of lightning crashed outside the window, disrupting the power and causing the computer to reboot. Kim \_\_\_\_\_ two big paragraphs of her research essay and four new entries to the works cited page.
2. Chris searched the apartment for his Environmental Studies textbook. Its \_\_\_\_\_ would mean spending another \$75 in the bookstore so that he could study for his final exam.
3. After the Smiths moved, no one mourned their \_\_\_\_\_. Their noisy parties, unkempt yard, and ferocious dogs had won them no friends in the neighborhood.
4. Madeline grabbed Kebo’s leash even more tightly as she read the flyer announcing a \$100 reward for a \_\_\_\_\_ dog.
5. Rosita gave a wide smile to show the gap where she had wiggled out an incisor. In the morning, she could expect a five-dollar bill under her pillow for the \_\_\_\_\_ tooth.
6. Richard ducked out of Tito’s Taco Palace when he spied Juan and Jessica sharing a large order of nachos. Richard regretted not only the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jessica, his ex-girlfriend, but also that of Juan, his best friend since middle school.
7. We looked everywhere for the pink sock—including under all the furniture and in the dryer. The gurgling stomach of Chewbacca, Dana’s new puppy, might explain the \_\_\_\_\_.

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ set of keys eluded Sara, who was already behind schedule and couldn't risk angering her manager Mr. Latoya with another late arrival to work.
9. Bernard \_\_\_\_\_ thirty points from his essay grade for not parroting Dr. Grayson's analysis of the novel.
10. Cary stared at the top of his head in the bathroom mirror. He worried that the loose strands in the sink signified impending hair \_\_\_\_\_ and eventual baldness.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ in the crowd of holiday shoppers, Melinda hoped to find her friends as she no longer had money for a bus ride home.
12. After a strict diet of low-calorie dog food, Sylvia's Labrador retriever no longer resembles a beach ball on sticks. In fact, the \_\_\_\_\_ of weight enables Hooper to catch Frisbees in midair again.
13. Unable to please Professor Markham with anything he wrote, Anthony withdrew from his contemporary literature class. The three-credit \_\_\_\_\_ will make a summer semester mandatory if he hopes to graduate next year.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ in a new sci-fi novel, Jerrod didn't realize that the slices of pizza he was reheating were blackening in the oven.
15. Esmeralda was forced to sneak peeks at Jeffrey's chemistry exam because she had \_\_\_\_\_ the crib sheet she had carefully prepared the night before.
16. When Jeffrey caught Esmeralda sneaking peeks at his chemistry exam, he immediately \_\_\_\_\_ respect for his tablemate.
17. Jeffrey's \_\_\_\_\_ of respect for Esmeralda means that she will not have his company at next week's homecoming festivities.
18. When Tamika left her biology notebook on the city bus, she regretted the \_\_\_\_\_ of her twelve-page research paper more than the twenty-dollar bill tucked in a pocket.

19. The impending hurricane season inspired the Martinez family to cut down the huge oak tree that towered over the house. The \_\_\_\_\_ of shade annoyed Mr. Martinez the most as he had the responsibility of paying the higher electric bill.
20. In the homestretch, as competitors began reducing the distance of his lead, Charlie knew the \_\_\_\_\_ of the race was inevitable as his legs had no more speed to give.

