**Than/Then • • • • • • • • Rules to Remember**

**Rule:** Use the word *than* to show a comparison.

What do you have to know in order to teach your dogs tricks?

... more **than** the dog

What’s more amazing **than** a dog that can count?

... **a spelling bee**

**Rule:** Use the word *then* when you can substitute the words “in that case.”

Customer: “Is it customary to tip a waiter in this restaurant?”
Waiter: “It certainly is.”
Customer: “**Then** you’d better tip me. I’ve been waiting for my dinner for an hour.”

Patient: “I have near-constant ringing in my ears.”
Doctor: “**Then** get an unlisted ear.”

**Rule:** Use the word *then* to show time sequence:

What did the portrait say to the wall?

... “First they framed me and **then** they hung me!”

Teacher: “Oxygen was discovered in 1774.”
Student: “So what did people breathe before **then**?”
Than/Then • • • • • • • • • • Practice Page

Directions: Write the word then or than to complete each joke. Remember to capitalize the first word in a sentence.

1. When is it better to give __________ to receive?
   ... in a snowball fight

2. Why did the girl put her sleeping bag into the fireplace and __________ climb in?
   ... She wanted to sleep like a log.

3. Boy: “Do you have holes in your socks?”
   Girl: “No, these are brand new.”
   Boy: “___________ how did you get your feet into them?”

   Shopkeeper: “Well, you can’t get matches much safer __________ that.”

5. What breed of dog can jump higher __________ a building?
   ... any breed of dog ... no building can jump!

6. Teacher: “At your age, I could name all of the U.S. presidents in the right order.”
   Student: “Well sure, because back __________ there were only about five of them.”

7. Boy visiting FBI office: “Are those really photos of America’s Most Wanted?”
   FBI agent: “Yes indeed.”
   Boy: “___________ why didn’t you keep them after you took their pictures?”

8. What did one math book say to the other?
   ... “I’ve got more problems __________ you do.”

9. Boy: “Country people are much smarter __________ city people.”
   Girl: “How can you say that?!”
   Boy: “Because the population is so much denser in the city.”

10. Boy: “My older brother works with more __________ 200 people beneath him.”
    Girl: “He must have a really important job. What does he do?”
    Boy: “He mows the grass in a cemetery.”
Than/Then
1. than
2. then
3. Then
4. than
5. than
6. then
7. Then
8. than
9. than
10. than