Teacher Definitions

There are some words that mean something a little different to teachers than they do to the rest of the world. Here are a few examples:

**basketball** — a game that must be played any time a student has trash in his or her hand and is within 10 feet of a trash can… upon viewing students play this game, it can easily be seen that most of them need work on their jump shots.

**Smartboard** — an amazing piece of technology that must be calibrated and highly maintained at all times, or else it quickly stops being “smart” and simply becomes a very expensive screen to display an LCD projector.

**summer vacation** — a glorious time that can only be obtained if someone is willing to compact 12 months worth of work and stress into a 9 month period.

**life imprisonment** — a clever response by a student to the teacher request, “Write a long sentence”… this response will a) give the teacher a headache, and b) possibly get a note sent home with the student.

**to**  **there**  
**two**  **their**  
**too**  **they’re**  — common homophones that are a nightmare to any student, but—even worse—they are guaranteed at some point in time to make a teacher look foolish in an e-mail, newsletter, or note to a parent.