**Word Choice – Exercise 3: Lose and Loose**

This handout accompanies Exercise 3 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choice—*lose* or *loose*.

1. Pizza for lunch was such a treat that Clifford refused to __________ his place in the cafeteria line—even though all of his money was in the car.

2. Clarissa ducked into a doorway, for the strong wind was blowing her long, __________ hair onto her double scoops of rocky road ice cream.

3. Flying __________ in the house, Jacques visited every mirror where he chirped to the handsome green parakeet who met him on the other side of the glass.

4. Gabrielle doesn’t want to __________ her locker key, so she wears it on her charm bracelet, where it jingles with a diamond-eyed poodle, a gold skate, and an emerald-studded four-leaf clover.

5. If you __________ a sock in a washing machine, Mrs. Chen, the Laundromat owner, will make a puppet with it to amuse the children who visit.

6. Everyone snickered as Bruce walked by, for __________ dog hair clung to the back of his black pants.

7. Michael purchased a two-liter bottle of soda and a one-pound bag of chocolate-covered peanuts so that he would not __________ momentum finishing his critical analysis of Melville’s *Moby-Dick*.

8. A __________ board on the back staircase squeals like a dying mouse whenever someone climbs to the second floor.

9. If you have a fascination with ancient Egypt, don’t take a class with Dr. McConnell, whose boring lectures make anyone quickly __________ interest.

10. Franklin fought to keep his eyes open, but the __________ structure of the plot and poor characterization of the main characters made him fall asleep in the middle of the play.

11. Peggy smelled the faint odor of last summer’s barbecue as she lifted the __________ cover draping the gas grill.

12. Aida hates to __________ her place in a book, so she not only turns down the corner of a page but also adds “Start here” in pen, even to library books!

13. As Jane leaned over the potato salad, her __________ hair fell over her shoulders and dragged through the mayonnaise.

14. So that Mrs. Hoff doesn’t __________ a single minute of class time, she watches the second hand sweep across the twelve, indicating the hour has started, and then launches into her lecture.
15. _________ the dogs from their leashes, Rachel watched as her whippets streaked in circles in the dog park field.

16. Pulling a cantaloupe from the bottom of the pyramidal display will cause the rest of the melons to crash to the floor, rolling _________ without organization imposed by the produce managers.

17. Because Gisela always borrows pens and then quickly _________ them, her friends no longer volunteer their extras.

18. Grandma believes that clothing color indicates a person’s character. Wearing pinks, reds, or oranges—whether male or female, whether shirts, socks, or ties—indicates _________ morals in Grandma’s book.

19. Jessie found enough _________ change in her book bag to buy either a root beer or a bag of chips; she contemplated the difficult decision between sweet or salty.

20. Reggie will not _________ the 100-meter race because Bianca, the girl of his dreams, is watching from the bleachers.