When to Use Then and Than

Spell check is a wonderful thing, but it does have its limitations.

Take, for example, the words *then* and *than*. As far as Spell check is concerned, if you use either one of these words, then they are spelled correctly. It doesn’t care if you are using the correct word or not.

The word *then* is used to imply chronology. It is used to indicate

*when* something has happened.

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The word *than*, on the other hand, is used to convey a comparison

of some kind, or to be more accurate, a difference.

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The following are *correct* uses of these words:

I went to the grocery store and *then* to the drycleaners.  
(*chronology*)
I would rather go to the grocery store than to the drycleaners. (comparison)