

Commonly Confused Words

Word	Part of Speech	Definition
accept	verb	To receive willingly
1.except	preposition	But, excluding
2. except	verb	To leave out, to exclude
advice	noun	Helpful opinion
advise	verb	To offer a suggestion
affect	verb	To influence
1.effect	noun	The result of an action
2. effect	verb	To bring about; to achieve
aisle	noun	A walkway
isle	noun	Small island
I'll	contraction	I will
All ready	adjective	Prepared, completely ready (replace <i>ready</i> with the word—if sentence still works, then <i>all ready</i> it is)
Already	adverb	Before some specific time, previously
All together	phrase	In a group
altogether	adverb	Entirely, thoroughly, completely (replace with <i>entirely</i> , if sentence still works then use <i>altogether</i>)
allude	verb	To refer indirectly
elude	verb	To avoid or escape from something/one
allusion	noun	An indirect reference or mentioning
illusion	noun	A mistaken impression, idea or perception
altar	noun	Elevated structure used for religious purposes
1.alter	verb	To change or modify
2.alter	verb	To change for a better fit , to tailor
among	preposition	Surrounded by, to be in a class of
between	preposition	In common to; shared by; (expresses a one-to-one relationship)
angry	adjective	Feeling/showing hostility, or resentment
mad	adjective	Insane, mentally deranged
ante	prefix	before
anti	prefix	against
appraise	verb	To evaluate
apprise	verb	To inform

as	conjunction	In the same degree, in the same manner
like	preposition	Similar to, in the manner <i>of</i>
assay	verb	To examine, analyze, judge
1.essay	noun	Short literary composition
2. essay	verb	To try
bad	adjective	Not good, unpleasant, unattractive, spoiled
badly	adverb	In a defective manner, in an undesirable way (use when referring to a verb, adjectives or adverbs. Ex: to feel badly, means one has a poor sense of touch)
1.base	noun	The bottom of anything, principal element
2.base	verb	To make/form a foundation for , to situate, to make as a fact
3.base	adjective	Morally low, dishonorable
1.bass	adjective	A low pitched musical note
2. bass	noun	A kind of fish
because	conjunction	For the reason that (direct cause and effect)
1.since	conjunction	In view of the fact that (logical connection but 1 st did not cause the 2 nd)
2.since	adverb	Before now (refers to time in both definitions)
beside	preposition	Next to, by the side of
1.besides	preposition	In addition to
2.besides	adverb	Moreover, as well
boar	noun	Male pig, a wild pig
1.boor	noun	Rude, crude person with no manners
2.bore	verb	To make a hole in something
3.bore	verb	To tire with dullness/tediousness/repetitiveness
4, bore	noun	Someone/thing that bores
born	adjective	Brought forth by birth
borne	Past participle	To bear, carried, supported, endures
1.brake	verb	To slow down
2. brake	noun	A device used to slow down
1.break	verb	To separate into parts
2. break	noun	The result of breaking, a fracture, an interruption
buy	verb	To purchase
by	preposition	Next to, with the use of, or through
bye	noun	Sports term for drawing no opponent , thereby advancing to next round
1.capital	noun	A place that is the official seat of government
2.capital	noun	Uppercase letter of the alphabet
3.capital	noun	Wealth or resources
4.capitol	noun	A Congressional building

cent	noun	Coin worth 1/100 of a US dollar
sent	verb	Past tense of <i>to send</i>
1.scent	verb	To smell
2.scent	noun	The smell of something
choose	verb	To pick out, to prefer
chose	verb	Past tense of <i>to choose</i>
cite	verb	To quote a passage from another source
1.sight	verb	To observe, to see
2.sight	noun	The ability to see
site	noun	A specific location
1.click	noun	A sharp, quick sound
2.click	verb	To make a sharp, quick sound
3. click	onomatopoeia	Sound of quick, sharp sound
clique	noun	An exclusive group
1.close	verb	To shut, to bar, to conclude,
2.close	adjective	Confined, strict , familiar
cloths	noun	Plural of cloth
clothes	noun	Garments, attire
clothe	verb	To put on garments
1.coarse	adjective	Rough, crude
2.coarse	noun	A route, a mode of action, a group of prescribed studies
3.coarse	verb	To move rapidly along
1.complement	noun	That which makes whole/complete
2.omplement	verb	To make complete/whole
1.compliment	noun	To respect/admire
2.compliment	verb	To show kindness
confidant	noun	A person who is trusted with one's secrets
confident	adjective	Having certainty, having a strong belief in
conscience	noun	Recognizing the difference between right and wrong
conscious	adjective	To be aware/alert
consul	noun	A diplomat
council	noun	A group that meets to discuss official matters
1.counsel	noun	advice
2.counsel	verb	To give advice
1.descent	noun	The act of moving downwards
2. descent	Noun	ancestry

1.dissent	noun	A difference, a disagreement
2.dissent	verb	To disagree
decent	adjective	To conform to societal norms of behavior
1.desert	noun	Dry, arid location
2.desert	verb	To leave/abandon
dessert	noun	Sweet food served after main meal
device	noun	Invention or implement
devise	verb	To think through, to plan, to invent
dew	noun	Moisture formed by air and left on cool surface
do	verb	To preform, fulfill, make
1.due	adjective	Payable, owed , scheduled
2.due	noun	Something that is payable/owed
different from	phrase	Used when comparing
different than	phrase	Incorrect usage
doesn't	contraction	Does not
don't	contraction	Do not
dual	adjective	Consisting of two parts
1.duel	noun	Arranged combat between two persons/parties
2.duel	verb	To fight in a duel
each other	phrase	Refers to only 2 people/things
one another	phrase	Refers to more than 2 people/things
elegy	noun	Song/poem in memory of dead person
eulogy	noun	A public tribute/speech to one who has died
elicit	verb	To bring out
illicit	adjective	Improper, unlawful,
eminent	adjective	Distinguished in reputation
imminent	adjective	About to happen
envelop	verb	To surround/enclose
envelope	noun	A container for a letter
evoke	verb	To call up memories/feelings
invoke	verb	To call for with desire, to pray for, to summon a deity
1.fair	adjective	Free from bias, injustice
2.fair	adjective	Bright, sunny , free of clouds, moderate temperature
3.fair	noun	A exhibition with games, livestock, products, entertainment, food
fare	noun	The price to travel somewhere

fare	verb	To experience either a good or bad fortune/treatment
farther	adverb	At or to a greater distance
1.further	adj or adv	Greater in time/degree/extent
2.further	adverb	additionally
fewer	adjective	A smaller number (can be counted)
less	adjective	Smaller in size/amount/degree; not so large/great/much
flair	noun	A natural talent/aptitude
1.flare	verb	To burst with a rapid flame
2.flare	noun	Bright blaze of fire or light
formally	adverb	In a formal manner
formerly	adverb	Previously/at an earlier time
forth	adverb	Forward/onward
fourth	adjective	The number four in a series
1.grate	noun	Framework of cross bars over an opening
2.grate	verb	To shred by rubbing
3.grate	verb	To make rasping sounds
4.grate	verb	To irritate
great	adjective	Extremely large/good/remarkable/outstanding
hang/hung	verb	To fasten above with no support/to suspend
hang/hanged	verb	To suspend by noose around neck until dead
have	verb	Can use with should/would/might
of	preposition	Begins a prepositional phrase
hear	verb	To perceive by ear/to be informed/to pay attention
here	adverb	In this place/at this point
1.hoard	noun	A supply/accumulation to use in the future
2.hoard	verb	To accumulate in a hidden or guarded place
horde	noun	A large group/multitude/number/ a mass of people
1.hole	noun	An opening, a hollow place in a body/mass
2.hole	noun	An embarrassing predicament
3.hole	noun	A fault/ flaw
4.hole	verb	To make a hole/pit/hollow
whole	adjective	A complete quantity/amount/extent/number
idle	adjective	Not working; lazy; useless
idol	noun	An image used as an object of worship
idyll	noun	A short poem about country life

imply	verb	To signal or hint at
infer	verb	To deduce/conclude from a hint
its	pronoun	Owned by, belonging to
it's	Contraction	It is
good	adjective	Agreeable, virtuous, kind
well	adverb	healthy
lay	verb	To put/place
lie	verb	To recline
1.lead	verb	To go first, to guide in a decision
2.lead	noun	A leash
3.lead	noun	(long e) a person who leads
4.lead	noun	Pencil graphite/ heavy metal
led	verb	Past tense of <i>to lead</i>
literally	adverb	In an exact manner/actually
figuratively	adverb	In an analogous sense
loose	adjective	Free ; not close together; not tied or bound
lose	verb	To suffer the loss of; to fail to keep/perceive/maintain
medal	noun	Flat piece of metal with inscription to commemorate a person/action/event
meddle	verb	To intrude in the affairs of others
mettle	noun	Courage and fortitude
passed	verb	Past tense of <i>to pass</i> , to go by without stopping; to undergo a test with favorable results
1.past	noun	A time before now
2.past	adjective	No longer current
personal	adjective	Referring to characteristics of a particular person, private, done in person
personnel	noun	A group of employees, persons active in an organization
1.principal	noun	Head or chief, head director of a school
2.principal	noun	Something of chief importance
3.principal	adjective	First in rank/importance/value
principle	noun	An accepted rule of action/conduct, a fundamental law/truth
1.quiet	adjective	Making no sound' silent, peaceful
2.quiet	noun	Freedom from noise; rest; repose
quite	adverb	Wholly; completely, entirely
1.raise	noun	An increase in the amount of wages
2.raise	verb	To move something to higher position; to elevate

1.rise	verb	To get up fro a lying position; to go up;
2. rise	verb	To rebel/revolt
3.rise	verb	To swell/puff up
recent	adjective	Having just passed
resent	verb	To show displeasure/indignation
1.right	adverb	In a direct/straight line
2.right	noun	A claim; a title, moral
3.right	adjective	In accordance with what is good/proper/just
4.right	verb	To put to upright position; to put in proper order
rite	noun	A formal or ceremonial act/procedure
write	verb	To inscribe, to compose
1.scene	noun	A place where some action/event occurs
2.scene	noun	A view/picture
3.scene	noun	An emotional outbreak
4.scene	noun	A division of a play
seen	Past participle	of <i>to see</i>
1.set	verb	To put something from one place to anotehr
2.set	verb	To fix the value at a certain rate
3.set	verb	To assume a rigid state
4.set	noun	A collection used together; a group
1.sit	verb	To be seated; to be located/situated
2.sit	verb	To remain inactive/quiet
sew	verb	To join with stitches; to make/repair in sewing
1.so	adverb	In a way/manner; in this way;
2.so	adverb	Extremely, very
stair	noun	A flight of steps
1.stare	verb	To gaze intently
2.stare	noun	A fixed look with eyes wide open
1.stationary	adjective	Not moving; standing still
2.stationary	noun	Writing paper
1.steal	Verb	To take the property of another with permission; to move
2.steel	noun	A form of iron
steel	adjective	A quality suggestive of steel
than	conjunction	Used for comparison
then	adverb	At that time in the past, next in time
their	pronoun	The possessive case of the pronoun they
there	adverb	At a place; into ; toward a place
they're	contraction	they are

to	preposition	Movement towards; in a direction toward
too	adverb	In addition to
two	n/adj/pronoun	The number 2; having 2 parts
vice	noun	An immoral or evil practice/habit/conduct
vise	noun	A device usually having two jaws that come together and/or separate to hold an object in place
waist	noun	Part of body between ribs and hips; midsection
1.waste	noun	Useless consumption; neglect
2.waste	verb	To consume/spend; to sue without profit; to destroy /consume
3.waste	adjective	Not used or in use' rejected; worthless
waive	verb	To refrain from claiming; to forgo; to defer; to postpone
1.wave	verb	To move gently back and forth/up and down; to flutter; to signal
2.wave	noun	A disturbance on the surface of a liquid
weak	adjective	Not strong; frail; delicate
week	noun	A period of seven days
1.weather	Noun/adj	State if the atmosphere
2.weather	verb	To expose to the weather ; to age
whether	conjunction	Used to introduce the first of two alternatives
which	adj/pronoun	The particular one or ones
witch	noun	one who practice magic; an old, ugly woman
whose	Adj/pronoun	Possessive form of <i>who</i>
who's	contraction	Of <i>who is</i>
woman	noun	One female
women	Noun	More than one woman
your	adjective	Possessive form of <i>you</i>
you're	Contraction	You are