From Accept/Except to Among/Between

**Accept and Except**
*Accept* is a verb that means *to take something offered.*
  
  I accept your gift.

*Except* is a preposition that means *not including a person or thing.*
  
  I will eat all of the apples, except for the red one.

**Advice and Advise**
*Advice* is a noun that means *a recommendation about something.*
  
  My advice to you is to stop sucking your thumb.

*Advise* is a verb that means *to offer advice.*
  
  I advise you not to play with that bee.

**Affect and Effect**
*Affect* is usually a verb that means *influencing something or somebody.*
  
  The waves affect my stomach.

*Effect* is usually a noun that means *result.*
  
  One effect of studying is good grades.

**Alternate and Alternative**
*Alternate* is an adjective that means *every second one or in turns.*
  
  We will alternate work shifts.

*Alternative* is an adjective that means *that something is available as an option.*
  
  An alternative to pork is chicken.

**Among and Between**
*Among* is a preposition that means *more than two things or persons.*
  
  Among the games in the store, this one is best.

*Between* is a preposition that involves *only two things.*
  
  Between purple and black, I like purple better.
From Choose/Chose to Loose/Lose

Choose and Chose
Choose is the present tense from the verb to choose, which means to make a deliberate decision. I choose to go to work to earn money.
Chose is the past tense form from the verb to choose. I chose not to work yesterday.

Fewer and Less (Both are adverbs)
Fewer is an adverb used to compare numbers. There are fewer boys than girls at the party.
Less is used to compare quantity. I weigh less than you.

Farther and Further
Farther and Further can both be used as adverbs and adjectives for distance.
   It is dangerous to go any farther/further. (adv.)
   I can throw farther/further than you. (adj.)
Only Further can be used as an adverb and adjective for a greater extent.
   I will inquire about this matter further tomorrow. (adv.)
   You will receive no further help from me. (adj.)

It’s and Its
It’s is the short form of ‘it is’ or ‘it has’.
   It’s going to rain.
Its is a possessive word used when gender is not known or inapplicable.
   The monkey hit its head.

Lead and Led
Lead is a noun that names a type of metal.
   Lead protects Superman from Kryptonite.
Lead can also be a verb meaning to guide somebody.
   I will lead the people to safety.
Led is the past tense of the verb lead.
   I led the people to their deaths.

Loose and Lose
Loose is an adjective meaning free or not firmly attached.
   The dogs broke loose from their cage.
Lose is a verb. That can mean to have something taken away or fail to win.
   I will lose my life if I fight that bull.
From Off/Off of to Regardless/Irregardless

**Off** and NOT Off of
*Off* is an adverb meaning *from.*
   - My hamster jumped *off* the table.
*Off of* is not a valid English expression. Do not use it.

**Past** and **Passed**
*Past* is a noun referring to *the time before the present.*
   - Historical events happened in the *past.*
*Past* can also be a preposition that means *the same as ‘beyond’.*
   - A car drove *past* me on the street.
*Past* can also be an adjective *describing an object or movement in an earlier time.*
   - Steven Spielberg’s *past* movies have not been that good.
*Passed* is the past tense of the verb *pass.*
   - Elvis *passed* one of his fans in a supermarket.

**Personal** and **Personnel**
*Personal* is an adjective *which relates to one person.*
   - I have my own *personal* butler.
*Personnel* is a noun *referring to people employed in an organization.*
   - The *personnel* at my work were fired.

**Principal** and **Principle**
*Principal* is a noun and the name for a *school administrator.*
   - The *principal* gave me detention.
*Principal* can also be an adjective, which means the same as *primary.*
   - The *principal* reason to leave was the bad smell.
*Principle* is a noun meaning *ethical standard or way of working.*
   - It is against my *principles* to join that club.

**Quite** and **Quiet**
*Quite* is an adverb that *emphasizes extent.*
   - I am *quite* full after that big lunch.
*Quiet* is an adjective meaning *not noisy.*
   - She was as *quiet* as a mouse.

**Regardless** and NOT Irregardless.
*Regardless* is an adverb meaning *in spite of everything.*
   - I’ll do it, *regardless* of the consequences.
*Irregardless* is not a valid English word. Do not use it.
From Then/Than to Use/Used to

Then and Than
Then is an adverb, which means the same as after that.
I hit her and then she cried.
Than is a comparative word.
I have more candy than you.

There, Their, and They’re
The word there can show direction, a destination, or a location.
The books are over there.
Their is a possessive pronoun and shows ownership.
All the kittens have lost their mittens.
They’re is a short form of ‘they are.’
They’re back from the mall.

Through and Threw
Through is a preposition showing movement from one side of something to the other.
I took a shortcut through the alley.
Threw is the past tense of the verb throw.
I threw the ball to Mark.

To, Two, and Too
To is a preposition.
I went to the zoo to see the jaguars.
Two is a number.
Two heads are better than one.
Too is an adverb meaning as well or very.
I want to go too.
Mary was too far away from her phone to answer my call.

Use and Used to
Use is a verb.
I use coffee to keep myself awake.
Used to can express something that is no longer true. In this case the verb is followed by an infinitive.
I used to play with dolls when I was younger.
Used to can also express becoming accustomed to something.
I am used to driving long distances.
Used can be an adjective meaning previously owned.
I’m looking to buy a used Mustang convertible for five hundred dollars.
Used can be the past tense of use.
The robbers used a getaway car.
From *Weather/Whether* to *Your/You’re*

**Weather** and **Whether**
*Weather* is a noun, which *gives name to the state of the atmosphere.*

> The *weather* today is beautiful.

*Whether* is a conjunction *used to introduce options.*

> I don’t know *whether* I want a burrito or a pizza.

**Whose** and **Who’s**
*Whose* can be a possessive pronoun.

> Whose snake bit my face?

*Whose* can be a possessive adjective.

> The person *whose* wallet that is will be sorry.

*Who’s* is the contraction, or short form, for ‘who is’.

> Who’s firing that tank?

**Where, Wear, Were, and We’re**
*Where* is an adverb *used to ask a question about location.*

> Where is the golden crown?

*Wear* is a verb meaning *to put something on.*

> I will not *wear* a feather in my cap.

*Were* is the past tense of ‘be’.

> They *were* glad they didn’t get shot.

*We’re* is the contraction for ‘we are’.

> *We’re* going to the park.

**Your** and **You’re**
*Your* is a possessive word *describing ownership.*

> Can *your* dog jump through hoops?

*You’re* is a contraction of ‘you are’.

> *You’re* nuts.
Exercise

In the sentences below, fill in the blank using the appropriate word from the given pair.

1. Affects or Effects
   The police siren __________ my migraine.

2. Past or Passed
   I __________ my test with flying colours.

3. Past or Passed
   The robber drove ______ the police blockade.

4. Principle or Principal
   My school has a very strict __________.

5. Then or Than
   We will go for a run ______ get some ice cream.

6. Their or There
   What is over ______?

7. Less or Fewer
   We have _____ time than we did a moment ago.

8. Farther or Further
   I have no __________ business with you.

9. Farther or Further
   You will run __________ today than you did yesterday.

10. Alternate or Alternative
    You can have broccoli as an ____________ to Brussels sprouts.