

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Part 1

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.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Part 1

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.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Part 1

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.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Part 1

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.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Part 1

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.

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Part 1

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.