

## Commonly Confused Words.

The following is a list of words which are alike and are often confused. The definitions are simple and not comprehensive.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Accept    | Agree to receive or take what is offered  |
| Except    | Not included  |
| Access    | Entryway, way in.   |
| Excess    | Portion that is more than required  |
| Adapt     | Change or alter according to conditions   |
| Adopt     | Legally take another's child as your own.   |
| Advice    | <i>Noun.</i> Guidance offered to an inexperienced person.                             |
| Advise    | <i>Verb.</i> Action of giving advice.   |
| Affect    | Make a difference to something  |
| Effect    | Result of something   |
| Aid       | Assistance or help.   |
| Aide      | Person who assists  |
| A Lot     | A large number  |
| Allot     | Assign to, give out   |
| Already   | Before the time expected e.g. "You are done already? That was fast"                   |
| All Ready | Fully prepared  |
| Allusion  | Hint at something   |
| Illusion  | "seeing" something that is not there  |
| Amoral    | Having no morals  |
| Immoral   | Doing something that society does not consider to be moral                            |
| Ante      | Before  |
| Anti      | Against   |
| Assent    | Approval  |
| Ascent    | Going up, commonly used in mountain climbing  |
| Aural     | To do with the ear or hearing   |
| Oral      | To do with speaking or the mouth  |
| Biannual  | Twice a year  |
| Biennial  | Every second year   |
| Board     | Flat piece of wood used in building   |
| Bored     | Made a hole in something with a drill   |
| Brake     | To stop a car using mechanical means  |
| Break     | Do something to stop a thing from operating or being whole. e.g. "Break a cup"        |
| Breach    | Make a gap or hole in something. e.g. "the dam was breached and the town was flooded" |
| Breech    | 1. Part of a gun or rifle 2. type of birth where feet come first                      |
| Bridal    | To do with a bride or woman getting married   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Bridle     | Leather harness on a horse's head   |
| Canvas     | Type of material  |
| Canvass    | To go to the people looking for support in an election                              |
| Capital    | 1. Main city in the country 2. money owned by a business                            |
| Capitol    | The building in Washington D.C. in which the American government meet               |
| Carat      | The unit of weight of gems and precious stones                                      |
| Caret      | A line on a page showing where a missing word should go.                            |
| Carrot     | A vegetable   |
| Chord      | A combination of musical notes  |
| Cord       | A length of string or rope  |
| Complement | Something that looks good with something else e.g. "that hat complements your coat" |
| Compliment | An expression of praise   |
| Confidant  | Someone you tell your secrets to  |
| Confident  | Have faith in something. e.g. "I'm confident I'll ass the exam"                     |
| Council    | A group who take decisions on the running of something, usually a town or village   |
| Counsel    | Advice, especially by a professional.   |
| Coarse     | Rough   |
| Course     | Direction as in the aeroplane is on course  |
| Curb       | To stop or restrain an activity   |
| Kerb       | The joint between the road and the footpath   |
| Currant    | Dried grapes used in cooking  |
| Current    | Up to date  |
| Demur      | Raise doubts or objections  |
| Demure     | Modest, shy   |
| Descent    | Going downwards, descent of the hill  |
| Decent     | Up to standard  |
| Dissent    | Raise objections  |
| Desert     | Dry land where very little grows  |
| Dessert    | Part of a meal  |
| Device     | Object used for a particular purpose  |
| Devise     | Think of a plan   |
| Die        | Expire, lose life   |
| Dye        | Change colour   |
| Draft      | A written report that needs more work   |
| Draught    | Blast of cold wind in a building  |
| Elicit     | To encourage a reply or response  |
| Illicit    | Against the law   |
|            |   |
| Eminent    | Respected   |
| Imminent   | Very close to happening   |
| Envelop    | To wrap around  |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Envelope    | Paper pocket for putting letters for mailing                        |
| Especially  | Very much, a great deal   |
| Specially   | Something different from the normal                                 |
| Faze        | Disturb the composure   |
| Phase       | A period or stage in a process                                      |
| Flammable   | Easily set on fire  |
| Inflammable | Easily set on fire (yes they mean the same thing)                   |
| Formally    | According to the rules of convention or etiquette                   |
| Formerly    | In the past   |
| Forth       | Forwards or onwards   |
| Fourth      | 4 <sup>th</sup> , of the number 4 in a line                         |
| Forward     | Onward, in the direction you are facing                             |
| Foreword    | An introduction to a book   |
| Hangar      | Shed for storing aircraft   |
| Hanger      | An item for hanging clothes in a wardrobe                           |
| Hoard       | A collection of money or other valuables                            |
| Horde       | Group of people usually not behaving very well                      |
| Hole        | Puncture or opening.  |
| Whole       | Complete  |
| Its         | Used to show possession e.g. "its coat"                             |
| It's        | Contraction for <i>it is</i> or <i>it has</i>                       |
| Know        | Have knowledge or understanding                                     |
| No          | Opposite of yes   |
| Lead        | <i>Verb</i> Make one or more follow you.                            |
| Lead        | <i>Noun.</i> A Metal. <i>Pronounced Led</i>                         |
| Led         | Past tense of Lead  |
| Licence     | <i>Noun.</i> A permit to do or own something                        |
| License     | <i>Verb.</i> To authorise or to grant a licence for something       |
| Loath       | Unwilling   |
| Loathe      | Hatred  |
| Loose       | Not tight or tied   |
| Lose        | <i>Verb Past Tense of Lost.</i> Unable to find or no longer have    |
| Medal       | Badge or award worn on chest or around neck.                        |
| Meddle      | <i>Verb</i> To interfere, to intrude in someone's business.         |
| Meter       | A machine that measures and records amount or rate of flow          |
| Metre       | 100 centimetres   |
| Naval       | To do with the navy.  |
| Navel       | The hole in your belly caused by the cutting of your umbilical cord |
| Omit        | Left out  |
| Emit        | Let go or discharge especially a gas or sound                       |
| Palate      | The roof of your mouth  |
| Palette     | A thin board on which an artist mixes his paints                    |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Pallet    | A wooden or plastic stand on which goods are stacked for transportation                               |
| Patients  | Sick or unwell people   |
| Patience  | Ability to tolerate delay or trouble without getting upset  |
| Peace     | Tranquillity  |
| Piece     | Portion or section as in a piece of bread   |
| Peak      | Top of a mountain, especially pointed top   |
| Peek      | To spy. To have a quick look  |
| Pique     | 1. Stimulate an interest. 2. Feel hurt and resentful  |
| Pedal     | <i>Noun.</i> Footrest on a bicycle <i>Verb.</i> Action of moving a bicycle using pedals               |
| Peddle    | To sell goods especially going from market to market  |
| Peer      | 1. to look with difficulty. 2. Member of classed society (Lord, Duke)                                 |
| Pier      | Wall leading out to sea where boats tie up.   |
| Pole      | 1. North or South Pole 2. a long thin rounded piece of wood or metal                                  |
| Poll      | An election or record of the number of votes in an election   |
| Practice  | <i>Noun.</i> A profession   |
| Practise  | <i>Verb.</i> Do a skill over and over to improve  |
| Pray      | Talk to god usually with hands together   |
| Prey      | Something being hunted, usually for food.   |
| Principal | 1. head of a school 2. sum of money invested 3. the main or most important                            |
| Principle | A fundamental truth or belief   |
| Quiet     | <i>Adjective.</i> Little or no noise  |
| Quite     | <i>Adverb.</i> To a certain degree e.g. quite slow or quite fast                                      |
| Rain      | Moisture falling from the sky in drops.   |
| Reign     | Period of rule by a king or queen.  |
| Rein      | Strap used to guide a horse.  |
| Read      | <i>Verb Present Tense.</i> To look at and understand written words                                    |
| Reed      | Dried plant stem used in thatching (roofing)  |
| Read      | <i>Verb. Past Tense.</i> To have looked at and understood written words. <i>Pronounced Red</i>        |
| Red       | Colour  |
| Real      | Actually existing, not artificial   |
| Reel      | 1. part of a fishing rod where the line is kept. 2. Celtic dance.                                     |
| Right     | 1. Opposite of left. 2. correct, not wrong  |
| Rite      | Religious ceremony.   |
| Write     | Put words on paper using a pen.   |
| Role      | Actor's part in a play.   |
| Roll      | <i>Noun.</i> 1. List of names. 2. small loaf of bread. <i>Verb</i> to turn over as in "roll the dice" |
| Scene     | Part of a play  |
| Seen      | Observed  |
| Sensor    | A device for detecting movement or noise  |
| Censer    | A container in which incense is burnt   |
| Censor    | A person who judges books and films for their suitability   |
| Censure   | Express strong disapproval  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Shear      | To take wool off sheep, to cut with a scissors                                    |
| Sheer      | 1. straight drop (cliff) 2. see through cloth 3. Nothing but e.g. sheer hard work |
| Shone      | <i>Verb Past Tense.</i> To Give out bright light e.g. "the sun shone down"        |
| Shown      | <i>Verb Past Tense.</i> Made something visible                                    |
| Sight      | Power of seeing   |
| Site       | Location  |
| Cite       | Quote a passage in a book   |
| Stationary | In a stopped position   |
| Stationery | To do with pens, pencils, paper, envelopes  |
| Storey     | Floors in a building  |
| Story      | Tale  |
| Team       | Group of people acting together   |
| Teem       | (to do with rain) To fall heavily or pour down                                    |
| Than       | Used in comparing things. e.g. "One is taller than the other"                     |
| Then       | 1. at that time 2. after that   |
| Their      | Belonging to them e.g. their coats  |
| There      | In that place   |
| They're    | <i>Contraction</i> They are   |
| To         | <i>Preposition.</i> Expressing direction e.g. to him, to the door                 |
| Too        | 1. Also, in addition 2. greater degree than is safe or permitted e.g. too fast    |
| Two        | Number 2  |
| Waist      | Part of your body below the ribs and above the hips                               |
| Waste      | Fail to make good or full use of something causing it to be thrown away           |