

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

except	to exclude	I like everything except anchovies.
accept	to receive	I accept your apology.
advice	recommendation for action	I'd like some advice on this issue.
advise	to give counsel	I would advise you to drop that snake.
affect	VERB -- to influence	The rain will affect the rhubarb.
effect	NOUN – a result	That is an effect of the new system
all ready	completely prepared	They were all ready to go to the game.
already	previously	She has been here already.
brake	to stop	Brake before you come to the intersection.
break	to smash or render into disrepair	Please don't break my Nintendo.
buy	to purchase	Sally is going to buy a house
by	near or next to	Sally sat by Dave.
capital	accumulated wealth	I know I could be rich, but I lack the investment capital.
capitol	building in which legislature meets	I was invited to the capitol to speak to the legislature.
coarse	rough	The sand paper had a coarse texture
course	path, procedure, process, or class	In the course of human events, all things play a role.
complement	something that completes	The spark plug wrench complements his automotive tool kit.
compliment	a flattering remark	My best friend complimented me on my outfit.
conscience	moral sense	My conscience would let me cheat on the test.
conscious	aware	I was not conscious immediately after the accident.
dissent	disagree	Four judges agreed, and two dissented.
descent	a way down	Her descent from grace was an ugly thing to see.
desert	a barren land	She was fascinated by the desert plants
dessert	last course of a meal	We had strawberry shortcake for dessert.
imminent	inevitable, approaching ominously	They found themselves in imminent danger.
eminent	conspicuous	The stranger on the corner was eminent because of his behavior
formally	in a manner befitting the highest social expectations	The attorney addressed the judge formally.
formerly	previously	She was formerly known as "Jane Doe."
forth	forward	Go forth and prosper.
fourth	after third	I was the fourth person in line for Green Day tickets.
hear	to perceive by ear	I can hear you shouting down there.
here	in this place	Come here and tell me about your trip.
heard	perceived by ear	I heard you got an "A" in English.
herd	a group of animals	The herd of cattle broke the fence and ran down the road.
instance	an example	He described an instance when the team had won with only four players.
instants	moments	Several instants passed before she realized she had won the prize.
its	possessive of it	The cat was licking its paw
it's	contraction of it is	It's time to go to school
lessen	to reduce	The medication should lessen the pain.
lesson	something learned	Failing that test taught me a good lesson.
loose	free from restraint	Everybody hide; there's a lobster loose.
lose	to be deprived of, to misplace	I don't want to lose my place in line.
passed	overtaken or gone by	I passed the Ice Cream Shop on my way to work.
past	an earlier time	I often talk to my grandmother about the past.
peace	absence of strife	She was working for peace in the Middle East.
piece	a part of something	I would like another piece of pie.
plane	airplane, or carpenter's tool	He caught the plain to Toledo.
plain	clear, devoid of excess	I would like one plain bagel please.
principal	most important adj., or head of a school noun	It was her principal desire to act on the stage.
principle	basic truth or law	The principles of physics are fascinating.

MORE COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

right	correct	Sally had the right answer.
rite	ceremony	The shaman led the tribe through the rite of spring.
write	to record	I like to write stories.
road	a driving surface or path	May the road rise up to meet you.
rode	to have been a passenger	I rode my bicycle to school.
sight	ability to see	The accident temporarily deprived her of her sight.
site	a place	She kept the job site in order
cite	to quote or attribute to	He cited asthma as his reason for not playing.
stationary	unmoving	As the bear charged, the brave woman remained stationary.
stationery	writing paper, letterhead	He wrote the letter to his congressperson on his best stationery.
their	belonging to them	They lost their minds for a moment.
there	in that place	They intend to go back there.
they're	contraction of "they are"	They're going to be a good team this year.
to	toward	I am going to school.
too	also	I like school too.
two	the number following one	I would like two hot dogs and a soda.
weak	lacking strength	I felt weak after I had run four miles.
week	seven days	I ran every day last week.
weather	condition of climate.	I liked the people, but I couldn't stand the weather.
whether	if or either	I couldn't decide whether to stay or leave.
who's	contraction of "who is"	Who's going out for pizza?
whose	belonging to who	Whose coat is that?
than	conjunction--compares things	The steak costs more than the ribs
then	adverb answering when?	What did he do then?
should have	NEVER "should of"	I should have stopped for lunch.
beside	next to	I sat beside her.
besides	in addition to	Besides writing, I teach speech.
do	To complete an action	Please do the work today.
due	Because of; date or time something is owed	Due to the storm, we lost power.
further	imaginary distance	You will further your knowledge.
farther	real distance	Toledo is farther than Chicago.
personal	private, non-work-related	That's a personal email.
personnel	human resources department	Send him to personnel.
definitely	certainly	It will definitely be done by 4 p.m.
defiantly	mocking or contradicting	McCain waved his fist defiantly.
regard	VERB to give attention to	I regard her as our best employee.
regards	VERB to give attention to	Sam regards her as our best employee.
regards	NOUN polite wishes	Give my regards to Sam.
good	ADJECTIVE -- modifies noun "worker"	She is a good worker
well	ADVERB -- modifies verb "works"	She works well.
our	belonging to us	That is our car.
are	VERB – state of being	The paychecks are here.
oriented	verb or adjective NEVER "orientated"	He slowly became oriented to the layout of the building
regardless	NEVER "irregardless"	Regardless of the outcome, it was a good game.
your	belonging to you	Is that your coat?
you're	contraction of "you are"	You're doing a great job.
a while	NOUN - Gregg section 1101 page 256	I walked for a while
awhile	ADVERB	I walked awhile.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS PRACTICE

Correct the misused words in the following passage.

I arrived at the job sight at 11:30 a.m. I met the rest of are team and went inside. I spent a few minutes becoming orientated to the room. I past the personal office and walked further down the hall. Beside fumigating the building, our team was supposed to wash all the floors accept the floors in the basement. Overall, I think we had a positive affect on the building. Than we went off to work on the State Capital.

When the equipment was already, we began the work. I had to take a brake buy noon to make a personnel phone call. I wanted to register for a coarse at Cooper College. I was the forth person in line for the payphone, and I could here that the guy who was on the phone was going to be talking for a while. For several instance, I thought about heading back to the work site; I could get a peace of pie on the way. I could right Cooper College a letter instead of calling. I should of thought of that earlier.

As I walked back, I thought about all the business we had, do to the nice whether lately. Yes, I was defiantly going to write Cooper College a letter. Its time for me to get back to school. School has it's advantages.