

## An alphabetical list of commonly confused words

WORDS	(A) DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
<b>a lot</b>	<b>A lot</b> is two words meaning "much": A lot of bologna was left over from the party.
<b>allot</b>	to give (especially a share of something available) for a particular purpose They <b>allotted</b> a separate desk <b>to</b> everyone. Did you finish your essay in the <b>allotted time</b> (= the time available) ?
<b>a while</b>	<b>A while</b> is two words meaning "a short period of time": I will meet you in a while.
<b>awhile</b>	for a short time <i>Stay <b>awhile</b> and rest.</i> <i>I read <b>awhile</b>, then slept.</i>
<b>a</b>	<b>A</b> is an indefinite article to be used before nouns beginning with a consonant: a photograph, a tree, a horse.
<b>an</b>	<b>An</b> is to be used before nouns beginning with a vowel (or vowel sound): <i>an</i> apple, <i>an</i> hour, <i>an</i> elephant.
<b>and</b>	<b>And</b> is a conjunction used between nouns in a list: A blanket and picnic basket are needed for the afternoon.
<b>adapt</b>	<b>Adapt</b> means "to adjust": Minnie Miles quickly adapted to living away from home.
<b>adept</b>	<b>Adept</b> means "skilled": Lucille is adept at speaking languages.
<b>adopt</b>	<b>Adopt</b> means to "accept as your own": It was difficult to adopt only one puppy from the animal shelter.
<b>adverse</b>	<b>Adverse</b> means "unfavorable, hostile": Those driving in adverse winter conditions may be putting themselves at risk.
<b>averse</b>	<b>Averse</b> means "unwilling or repelled": She was immediately averse to the idea.
<b>advice</b>	<b>Advice</b> is a noun meaning "an opinion given with the intention of helping": My mother still gives me advice even though I'm 40 years old.
<b>advise</b>	<b>Advise</b> is a verb meaning "to give counsel or advice": The

	meteorologist advised listeners to stay indoors because of the extremely cold temperatures.
<b>affect</b>	<b>Affect</b> is most often used as a verb meaning "to influence": The president's speech affected his views of the upcoming election.
<b>effect</b>	The verb <b>effect</b> means "to cause": Batting her eyes so flirtatiously effected a strong desire in Rathbone to embrace Mirabelle.
<b>aid</b>	<b>Aid</b> is help or assistance given: Every Christmas the community gives aid to those less fortunate.
<b>aide</b>	An <b>aide</b> is a person who helps: Frieda Gogh worked five years as a teacher's aide.
<b>ail</b>	<b>Ail</b> : to be ill.
<b>ale</b>	<b>Ale</b> : an alcoholic beverage.
<b>airs</b>	<b>Airs</b> refers to snobbish and artificial behavior: Portia Radclyffe put on airs at the fine dinner party just because she had a few diamonds.
<b>heirs</b>	<b>Heirs</b> are people who, because they are family, will inherit an estate or title.
<b>aisle</b>	<b>Aisle</b> : a corridor.
<b>isle</b>	<b>Isle</b> : an island.
<b>all right</b>	<b>All right</b> is a phrase meaning "everything is right": Is all right here?
<b>alright</b>	<b>Alright</b> is a single word meaning "OK": Is everything alright here?
<b>all together</b>	<b>All together</b> is applied to people or things that are being treated as a whole: We always had fun when we were all together. To double check this usage, try separating the two words: We all had fun when were together.
<b>altogether</b>	<b>Altogether</b> is an adverb that means "completely or totally": Using a flashlight in bed is an altogether new approach to reading.
<b>all ways</b>	<b>All ways</b> means "by every means or method": Dirk tried all ways to navigate the storm.
<b>always</b>	<b>Always</b> means "forever": Sue St. Marie always responded calmly during emergency situations.
<b>allude</b>	<b>Allude</b> means "to suggest indirectly": Leticia can't speak to her husband without alluding to his affair with Martha Snodgrass.

<b>elude</b>	<b>Elude</b> means "to dodge or escape": Serious relationships always seemed to elude him.
<b>allusion</b>	An <b>allusion</b> is a subtle reference or hint: Rita Book made an allusion to the most recent novel she read in our conversation yesterday.
<b>illusion</b>	An <b>illusion</b> is a deception, mirage, or a wild idea: The teacher said she had no illusions about how much work teaching demands.
<b>almost</b>	<b>Almost</b> means "nearly all": Almost all my friends have graduated from college by now.
<b>most</b>	<b>Most</b> is superlative of <i>more</i> , meaning "the greatest or to the highest degree": Chuck is the most computer savvy guy I know, or Chuck cooked a most delicious supper.
<b>aloud</b>	<b>Aloud</b> means "speaking so that someone else can hear you": Read this paragraph aloud.
<b>allowed</b>	<b>Allowed</b> means "having permission": His boss allowed him to take the weekend off.
<b>already,</b>	<b>Already</b> is an adverb that indicates an action is completed by a certain time: Herschel had already finished that whole pie.
<b>all ready</b>	<b>All ready</b> means "everything is completely prepared": The children were all ready and bundled up warmly to go caroling on the snowy evening.
<b>altar</b>	<b>Altar</b> : a pedestal, usually religious.
<b>alter</b>	<b>Alter</b> : to modify; to change.
<b>alternately</b>	<b>Alternately</b> means "taking turns": We paddled alternately so neither of us would get too tired.
<b>alternatively</b>	<b>Alternatively</b> means "as an option": Instead of going by train, we could have gone alternatively by car.
<b>ambiguous</b>	<b>Ambiguous</b> is describes a phrase or act with more than one meaning, or one that is unclear: The ending of the short story is ambiguous; we don't know if he died or continue his journey.
<b>ambivalent</b>	<b>Ambivalent</b> means "uncertainty and having conflicting attitudes and feelings": He was ambivalent as to which candidate to vote for.
<b>amiable</b>	<b>Amiable</b> refers to a person who is friendly, good-natured, and pleasant: Susan was very amiable and liked immediately.
<b>amicable</b>	<b>Amicable</b> means "friendly and peaceable", and is used to

	describe agreements or relationships between groups or people: After years of disagreement, the two countries came to an amicable agreement.
<b>amid</b> <b>amidst</b>	Either is acceptable, but many writers prefer the more concise <b>amid</b> .
<b>among</b> <b>between</b>	<b>Among</b> is used for three or more: Shirley had to choose among three universities she might attend. <b>Between</b> is used for two things: I couldn't decide between blue and green.
<b>amoral</b> <b>immoral</b>	<b>Amoral</b> means "having no principles at all, good or bad": Percy is totally amoral; he is either helping others or helping himself at their expense. <b>Immoral</b> means "bad, lacking good principles": Everything his brother does harms others whether it benefits him or not.
<b>amount</b> <b>number</b>	<b>Amount</b> is used with uncountable and abstract nouns: a large amount of money, amount of work, amount of happiness or amount of dirt. <b>Number</b> is used with countable and concrete plural expressions: a number of people, a number of attempts, a number of novels, a number of trials.
<b>amused</b> <b>bemused</b>	<b>Amused</b> is when something is entertaining: The children were amused by watching the kittens play. <b>Bemused</b> means "bewildered" or "lost in thought": George was bemused by the unexpected ending to the movie.
<b>anxious</b> <b>eager</b>	In casual usage, <b>anxious</b> has become a synonym for <b>eager</b> , but the words are different. Whereas <b>eager</b> means "excited" or "enthusiastic," <b>anxious</b> , like anxiety, denotes uneasiness.
<b>annual</b> <b>annul</b>	<b>Annual</b> means "yearly": We must pay an annual tax. <b>Annul</b> means "to make void or invalid": They want to annul the marriage.
<b>any more</b> <b>anymore</b>	Use the two-word form to mean "any additional": I don't need <b>any more</b> help. Use <b>anymore</b> to mean "any longer": I don't need help anymore.
<b>any one</b> <b>anyone</b>	<b>Any one</b> means "any one person": Any one of you may go, but not all of you. <b>Anyone</b> means "anybody, any person at all": Anyone can chew gum and walk at the same time.

<p><b>anytime</b></p> <p><b>any time</b></p>	<p>Traditionalists do not accept the one-word form, <b>anytime</b>. But it is everywhere, and there's no turning back.</p> <p>There does seem to be a difference between You may call <b>anytime</b> and Do you have any time? Always use the two-word form with a preposition: You may call at <b>any time</b>.</p>
<p><b>anyway</b></p> <p><b>anywhere</b></p> <p><b>nowhere</b></p> <p><b>anyways</b></p> <p><b>anywhere</b></p> <p><b>nowhere</b></p>	<p><b>Anyway, anywhere, and nowhere</b> are the correct forms.</p>
<p><b>apart</b></p> <p><b>a part</b></p>	<p><b>Apart</b> is an adverb meaning "in pieces": My plan for my vacation fell apart.</p> <p><b>A part</b> is a noun meaning "one section of": A part of my heart left when he did.</p>
<p><b>appraise</b></p> <p><b>apprise</b></p>	<p><b>Appraise</b> is to assess or estimate the worth of: to appraise a diamond.</p> <p><b>Apprise</b> is to inform or notify: the officer apprised us of our rights.</p>
<p><b>arcane</b></p> <p><b>archaic</b></p>	<p><b>Arcane</b> refers to things known and understood by few people: Amanda Lynn teaches arcane theories of modern music at the college.</p> <p><b>Archaic</b> refers to things very, very old and outdated: The Oxford English Dictionary contains many words that are archaic.</p>
<p><b>as</b></p> <p><b>like</b></p>	<p><b>As</b> may be used as a conjunction that introduce dependent clauses: George talks as his father does. Informally, it may also be used as a preposition in comparative constructions like: Jean-Claude is as forgetful as me (or as I am).</p> <p><b>Like</b> is a preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun: George looks like his mother. It may also be used as an adjective meaning "similar": George and I have like minds.</p>
<p><b>ascent</b></p> <p><b>assent</b></p>	<p><b>Ascent</b> is an upward movement: Leo's ascent to the presidency of the company came slowly.</p> <p><b>Assent</b> means "to agree to": Greta could not begin the project unless management assented.</p>

<b>ascetic</b>	An <b>ascetic</b> is a person who renounces all material comforts, often for religious devotion: the young man lead his ascetic lifestyle despite his parents' plans for him. It can also be used as an adjective: Ethan Asia led an ascetic lifestyle.
<b>aesthetic</b>	<b>Aesthetic</b> refers to the philosophy of beauty or the pleasing qualities of something: The statuette Leander created was lacking in aesthetic qualities.
<b>ascribe</b>	<b>Ascribe</b> means "to attribute to": She ascribed her feelings of jealousy to insecurity.
<b>describe</b>	<b>Describe</b> means "to show what something is by drawing a picture with words": Describe in detail what the man looked like.
<b>aspersion</b>	<b>Aspersion</b> is slander, a damaging remark: The campaign was filled with one aspersion after another.
<b>dispersion</b>	<b>Dispersion</b> is the act of scattering: The dispersion of seeds was irregular because he sowed the seeds by hand.
<b>assent</b> <b>ascent</b>	<u><a href="#">See ascent, assent.</a></u>
<b>assistance</b>	<b>Assistance</b> is help or aid: the nurses gave assistance to the patients.
<b>assistants</b>	<b>Assistants</b> are more than one assistant, a person who gives help: the emergency room assistants were ready to help anyone who came through the door. ( <u><a href="#">See also patience and patients.</a></u> )
<b>assure</b>	<b>Assure</b> means "to guarantee": He assured her it was a quality item.
<b>ensure</b>	<b>Ensure</b> means "to make sure by double checking": The custodian ensured the doors to the school were locked at night.
<b>insure</b>	<b>Insure</b> means "to provide insurance": It is wise to insure your house against flood, fire, or theft.
<b>assume</b>	<b>Assume</b> : to take for granted without evidence.
<b>presume</b>	<b>Presume</b> : to believe based on evidence.
<b>auger</b>	An <b>auger</b> is a tool used for digging holes: If you want to ice fish, you need to first drill a hole in the ice with an auger.
<b>augur</b>	<b>Augur</b> means "to predict, forecast": Leroy's inheritance augured happiness for him in the future.

<b>aural</b> <b>oral</b>	Since the two words are pronounced the same, be careful not to write <b>oral</b> (having to do with the mouth) if you mean <b>aural</b> (having to do with hearing).
<b>a while</b>  <b>awhile</b>	The two-word phrase <b>a while</b> is getting pushed aside by awhile. But awhile should only be used to mean "for a while." It's a distinction worth preserving: It took <b>a while</b> , but I was convinced after thinking it over <b>awhile</b> . Always use a while with prepositions: After <b>a while</b> , she arrived.
<b>Words (B) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>backward</b> <b>backwards</b>	<b>Both</b> forms are acceptable, although the Associated Press Stylebook instructs journalists to always use <b>backward</b>
<b>bad</b>  <b>badly</b>	<b>Bad</b> is an adjective used after verbs like am, feel, is, seem, and become: They felt bad. (Using badly here would mean that their skill at feeling is poor). <b>Badly</b> is an adverb used after other verbs: They played badly. Badly can also mean "greatly": They needed food badly.
<b>bail</b>  <b>bale</b>	Both words do double duty as noun and verb. As a noun, <b>bail</b> commonly refers to money deposited to gain a prisoner's freedom, or <b>bail</b> that prisoner out. <b>A bale</b> is a large, bound or wrapped package of unprocessed material. To bale is to make into a bale.
<b>ball</b> <b>bawl</b>	<b>Ball</b> : a round object; a gala event. <b>Bawl</b> : to cry; howl.
<b>baited</b>  <b>bated</b>	<b>Baited</b> usually refers to traps: Baiting deer in order to hunt them is illegal in most states. <b>Bated</b> is seldom used but means "reduced, abated": Jessica bated her pace to let her running mate catch up.
<b>bare</b>  <b>bear</b>	<b>Bare</b> means "naked": Walking in grass with bare feet is refreshing. <b>Bear</b> is the animal, and also means "to carry": Sherman must bear the burden of flunking math twice.
<b>bazaar</b>  <b>bizarre</b>	<b>Bazaar</b> is an exhibition, market, or fair: The Saturday morning bazaar is worth seeing even if you buy nothing. <b>Bizarre</b> means "weird and unworldly": Barry told us a bizarre story last night.
<b>beach</b>	The <b>beech</b> tree was close to the windy <b>beach</b>

beech	
belief believe	<b>Belief</b> is a noun: He had strong beliefs. <b>Believe</b> is a verb: She believes she can do anything.
beside besides	<b>Beside</b> means "next to": Place the dishes beside the sink. <b>Besides</b> is an adverb or preposition that means "also, additionally": I would enjoy going on a vacation besides.
better had better	<b>Had better</b> is the correct form, used when giving advice that hints at an undesirable consequence if not followed: You had better go to the doctor. Don't leave out <b>have</b> .
between among	<u>See among, between.</u>
biannual biennial	<b>Biannual</b> is twice in one year: My trip to the dentist is a biannual event. <b>Biennial</b> means "every two years": These flowers are biennial; they bloom every two years.
bimonthly semimonthly	<b>Bimonthly</b> means "every two months": We order from the co-op bimonthly. <b>Semimonthly</b> means "twice a month (biweekly)": We have our house cleaned semimonthly.
blithe lithe	<b>Blithe</b> , an adjective, means "lighthearted and carefree": A blithe mood overcomes us in the spring. <b>Lithe is</b> also an adjective but it means "flexible, graceful, and supple": The lithe movements of the yoga instructor impressed us all.
blonde blond	<b>Blonde</b> describes women: Brunettes have just as much fun as blondes (blonde women). <b>Blond</b> describes men: Sean was not a natural blond. This distinction is not necessary though: <b>blond</b> is now generally accepted for both men and women.
bolder boulder	<b>Bolder</b> : more daring. <b>Boulder</b> : a large rock.
board bored	<b>Board</b> means a few things. One is "a long sheet of wood": Hiram had to cut the board to make the shelves. It also means "a committee": The board of directors met to decide the fate of the school. Lastly, it can mean "to get onto": She boarded the ship. <b>Bored</b> means "not interested": She is bored by the dry lecture.

<b>bore</b>	A <b>bore</b> is a boring or tiresome person or thing: Jasper is such a bore when he talks about his cats!
<b>boar</b>	A <b>boar</b> is a male pig: Wild boars abound in this forest.
<b>boor</b>	A <b>boor</b> is an unrefined, vulgar person: What a boor Guy was to get drunk at the wedding and embarrass everyone.
<b>born</b>	<b>Born</b> is newly coming into life: A child was born at 12:01 New Year's day.
<b>borne</b>	<b>Borne</b> means "carried": All gossip is borne by an ill wind.
<b>borrow</b>	<b>Borrow</b> is to receive something from someone temporarily: to borrow a book and then return it.
<b>lend</b>	<b>Lend</b> is a verb that mean "to temporarily give something to someone": Henry will lend (or loan) Francine a book.
<b>loan</b>	<b>Loan</b> is a noun: a bank loan. Loan is often used in American English as a verb meaning "to lend": Loan me a book, please.
<b>braise</b>	<b>Braise</b> means "to cook (usually meat) slowly in liquid": Braised meat is usually tender.
<b>braze</b>	To <b>braze</b> is to solder or create with metals such as bronze: Shirley brazed a statue of a famous Civil War leader.
<b>brake</b>	<b>Brake</b> means "to stop": You should brake slowly on ice.
<b>break</b>	<b>Break</b> means "to smash": To break a mirror brings seven years of worse luck than you are having now.
<b>breath</b>	<b>Breath</b> is a noun meaning "the air pulled into the lungs": Take a deep breath and relax.
<b>breathe</b>	<b>Breathe</b> , with an E on the end, is a verb: Just breathe deeply and calm down.
<b>bridal</b>	<b>Bridal</b> has to do a bride and her wedding: June May threw her bridal bouquet to the screaming crowd of single women.
<b>bridle</b>	A <b>bridle</b> is a halter or restraint, such as a horse bridle: Old Frosty didn't like the bridle over his head.
<b>broach</b>	To <b>broach</b> a topic is to bring it up for discussion: Now is the time to broach the subject. As a verb, broach also means "to open or enlarge a hole." The noun broach refers to a pointed tool which performs that operation.
<b>brooch</b>	A <b>brooch</b> , a decorative pin or clip, is nothing like a broach. But since they're often pronounced alike, and because ignorance never rests, some dictionaries accept broach as

	an alternative spelling of brooch.
<b>by</b>	<b>By</b> is a preposition meaning "next to": Park the car by the house.
<b>buy</b>	<b>Buy</b> means "purchase": Grandpa buys an ice cream cone every Sunday afternoon.
<b>bye</b>	<b>Bye</b> means "farewell or good-bye": Bye, now; I'll see you later.
<b>WORDS (C) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>cannon</b> <b>canon</b>	<b>Cannon:</b> a large, mounted gun. <b>Canon:</b> a body of writings; a principle or set of principles.
<b>can't hardly</b>	This expression is a nonstandard double negative ( <b>hardly</b> is considered negative), so avoid it. It is better to say <b>can hardly</b> : I can hardly hear you over the noise of the party! <u>Hardly.</u>
<b>canvas</b> <b>canvass</b>	<b>Canvas</b> is cloth or fabric: a canvas bag to bring to the beach. <b>Canvass</b> means "to conduct a survey or examine thoroughly", or "to seek votes": She canvassed all the stores before she found the right dress.
<b>capital</b> <b>capitol</b>	A <b>capital</b> is where the seat of government is: The capital of the United States is Washington DC. Capital can also mean "wealth" or "a large letter". The <b>Capitol</b> (usually capitalized) is the actual building in which the government and legislature meets: We will travel to the Capitol this weekend.
<b>carat</b> <b>karat</b>  <b>caret</b>	Most of the confusion is caused by <b>carat</b> and <b>karat</b> because both are associated with jewelry. The purity of gold is measured in karats. Twenty-four- <b>karat</b> gold is 99.9 percent pure, but so soft that it is considered impractical for most jewelry. <b>A carat</b> is a weight measurement for gemstones: a two-carat diamond set in an eighteen-karat gold ring. <b>A caret</b> has nothing to do with any of this. It is a mark an editor makes in a document to show where additional material should be inserted.
<b>censor</b>	<b>Censor</b> is to prohibit free expression: The principal censored

<b>sensor</b>	all references to smoking in school publications.
<b>censure</b>	A <b>sensor</b> is something that interprets stimulation: The lights are turned on by a movement sensor. <b>Censure</b> is rebuke, harsh criticism: MortySkustin was severely censured for putting the frog in the water cooler.
<b>choral</b>	<b>Choral</b> : relating to or sung by a choir.
<b>coral</b>	<b>Coral</b> : an underwater organism that makes up reefs; a shade of orange.
<b>cite</b>	<b>Cite</b> means "to quote or mention": He cited a famous theorist in his speech.
<b>site</b>	<b>Site</b> is a noun meaning "a place": At which site will we stage the party?
<b>sight</b>	<b>Sight</b> is a noun meaning "view": The sight of the New York City skyline is spectacular.
<b>classic</b>	<b>Classic</b> , adjective or noun, is a term of high praise: "of the finest quality" or "a prime example of": a classic play, a classic pizza. The adjective classical applies to traditions going back to the ancient Greeks and Romans: The house featured an array of classical influences.
<b>classical</b>	<b>Classical</b> music is marked by formal, sophisticated, extended compositions.
<b>click</b>	A <b>click</b> is a brief percussive noise, but some mistakenly write it when they mean <b>clique</b> , a close, exclusive group of people.
<b>clique</b>	
<b>climactic</b>	<b>Climactic</b> refers to the peak: Wendell sneezed right at the climactic moment of a movie.
<b>climatic</b>	<b>Climatic</b> refers to the climate and weather: New Monia is known for its dramatic climatic changes.
<b>coarse</b>	<b>Coarse</b> is an adjective meaning "rough, big-grained, not fine": We need to use coarse sandpaper to remove the paint from this wood.
<b>course</b>	<b>Course</b> is a noun referring to a direction (the course of a ship) or a series of lectures on one subject (a history course in college): The poetry course Stu deBaker took in collge changed the course of his life.
<b>collectable</b>	Both are acceptable, but <b>collectible</b> has a slight edge in popularity, especially as a noun.
<b>collectible</b>	
<b>collaborate</b>	<b>Collaborate</b> means "to work together": Collaborate with the people on your team.

<b>corroborate</b>	<b>Corroborate</b> means "to support with evidence" or "prove true": The testimony was corroborated with evidence of his innocence.
<b>complement</b> <b>compliment</b>	<b>Complement</b> means "to supplement" or "make complete": Their two personalities complement each other. <b>Compliment</b> means "to praise or congratulate": She received a compliment on her sense of fashion.
<b>compose</b> <b>comprise</b>	<b>Compose</b> means to "make up" and is often used in the passive voice: The class is composed of students of several nationalities. <b>Comprise</b> means "have, consist of, or include": Students of several nationalities comprise the class. A rule to remember would be that the whole comprises its parts, and the parts compose the whole.
<b>concurrent</b> <b>consecutive</b>	<b>Concurrent</b> simultaneous or happening at the same time as something else: concurrent blizzards in three different states. <b>Consecutive</b> means "successive or one after another": The state had three consecutive blizzards that month.
<b>confidant</b> <b>confident</b>	<b>Confidant:</b> a trusted adviser. <b>Confident:</b> certain, self-assured.
<b>conform</b> <b>confirm</b>	<b>Conform</b> means "to be similar to": Some schools conform their students by using uniforms. <b>Confirm</b> is to make sure or double check: to confirm a flight reservation.
<b>congenial</b> <b>congenital</b>	<b>Congenial</b> describes something likeable, suitable to taste: They enjoy the congenial surroundings in their home. <b>Congenital</b> refers to a condition present at birth because of heredity: Raymond has a congenital heart defect.
<b>connote</b> <b>denote</b>	<b>Connote</b> means to "imply or suggest": 'Home' connotes warmth and safety. <b>Denote</b> means to "indicate specifically, to mean": 'Home' denotes the place where you live.
<b>conscience</b> <b>conscious</b> <b>conscientious</b>	<b>Conscience</b> is the feeling or knowledge of right and wrong: My conscience wouldn't allow me to compete with someone so much weaker than me. <b>Conscious</b> refers to being awake and aware: Molly Coddle was still conscious after banging her head on the headboard. To be very careful. To pay attention to one's actions.

(adj.)	Example: The police officer was very <b>conscientious</b> about his duties.
<b>continual</b>	<b>Continual</b> means "repeated with breaks in between": We need continual rain throughout the summer for crops to grow.
<b>continuous</b>	<b>Continuous</b> means "without stopping": The continuous drumming of the rain on the windows put Herman to sleep.
<b>convince</b>	<b>Convince</b> is to cause another to feel sure or believe something to be true: Well, Argyle Greenpasture has convinced me that aliens do exist.
<b>persuade</b>	<b>Persuade</b> is to talk someone into doing something: Percy persuaded me to help him wash his car.
<b>co-operation</b>	<b>Co-operation</b> means "working together": I would like to thank you for your cooperation with us on the project.
<b>corporation</b>	A <b>corporation</b> is a large company: Presidents of large corporations receive tens of millions of dollars in salary.
<b>corps</b>	<b>Corps</b> (pronounced 'core') is an organization of people dedicated to a single goal: Lucinda joined the Peace Corps after college.
<b>core</b>	A <b>core</b> is the center of a fruit containing seeds: Bartholomew eats apples, core and all.
<b>corpse</b>	A <b>corpse</b> is a dead body: The corpse of Danny's dog was lovingly laid to rest in the back yard.
<b>correspondence</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> is agreement or written communication such as letters or news articles: Phil and Rachel continued their correspondence for years.
<b>correspondents</b>	<b>Correspondents</b> are those who write this communication: Rhoda Lott has lived abroad as a news correspondent for several years.
<b>could not care less</b>	This expression is often confusing for English language learners. It is always used with a negative and means that you really don't care at all: Since she was sick, Mona <b>could not care less</b> about doing her homework, or Mona could not care less which color sweater she wore.
<b>council</b>	A <b>council</b> is a group of people called together to meet on an issue: The school board council meets every Thursday evening.
<b>counsel</b>	<b>Counsel</b> is advice: I always go to Clyde for counsel on the tough decision in my life.
<b>consul</b>	A <b>consul</b> is a diplomat appointed to protect the citizens

	and commercial interests of one country in another: If you need help starting a business in France, talk to the US consul in Paris.
<b>creak</b>	<b>Creak</b> can be the noun or verb for a squeak or groan: The creak of the floorboards alerted Nell that Bernard was sneaking up on her.
<b>creek</b>	A <b>creek</b> is a small stream: The kids loved to play in the creek on a hot summer day.
<b>credible</b>	<b>Credible</b> means "believable or reliable": There is no credible evidence that it was I who broke the lamp.
<b>creditable</b>	<b>Creditable</b> means "worthy of praise or respect": I couldn't have broken the lamp because I have a creditable alibi.
<b>criteria</b>	<b>Criterion</b> is singular: There is only one criterion for this job.
<b>criterion</b>	<b>Criteria</b> is plural: Several criteria need to be met in order for us to move forward.
<b>custom</b>	A <b>custom</b> is a cultural tradition: It is a custom in Japan to remove your shoes when entering a home.
<b>costume</b>	A <b>costume</b> is the outfit worn to represent a particular time, event, or culture: What is your costume for Halloween going to be?
<b>WORDS (D) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>dairy</b>	A <b>dairy</b> is a farm where milk and milk products are produced: Madeleine grew up on a dairy and knows how to churn butter.
<b>diary</b>	A <b>diary</b> is the daily journal kept: Rhoda Book writes in her diary for two hours every night.
<b>deduction</b>	<b>Deduction</b> is drawing a general principle from particular facts or instances: I've seen hundreds of robins and they all have red breasts. (General principle-all robins have red breasts.)
<b>induction</b>	<b>Induction</b> is the explanation of particular facts or instances from a general principle: That bird must be a robin because it has a red breast. (General principle-all robins have red breasts.)
<b>definite</b>	Something <b>definite</b> is exact, clearly defined, with no ambiguity. But definite does not necessarily mean "correct": George has a definite belief that two and two are five.
<b>definitive</b>	Something <b>definitive</b> is authoritative, the best, the last word:

	This is the definitive biography of Lincoln.
<b>denote</b> <b>connote</b>	<u>See connote, denote.</u>
<b>describe</b> <b>ascribe</b>	<u>See ascribe, describe.</u>
<b>desert</b>  <b>dessert</b>	<b>Desert</b> means "to abandon" (and can also be a noun, meaning "a wasteland"): Cooley deserted his family when they all got tattoos and lip piercings. <b>Dessert</b> is the sweet course of a meal: The whole family wanted to have cake for dessert.
<b>device</b>  <b>devise</b>	A <b>device</b> is an instrument used to perform a task: This device will peel apples for you. <b>Devise</b> is to create or invent: They will devise a scheme to continue the business.
<b>diary</b> <b>dairy</b>	<u>See dairy, diary</u>
<b>divers</b>  <b>diverse</b>	<b>Divers</b> means "several": You can take that statement in divers ways. <b>Diverse</b> means "different or varied": There are many diverse cultures in the world.
<b>different from</b>  <b>different than</b>	<b>Different from</b> is the standard usage when comparing two things: Suzie's sweater is different from Mary's. Don't say, " <b>Different than</b> something else."
<b>disburse</b>  <b>disperse</b>	To <b>disburse</b> is to distribute or pay out money or other financial assets. Use <b>disperse</b> when something other than money is being distributed: The agency dispersed pamphlets after the meeting. <b>Disperse</b> also means "to scatter" or "make disappear": The police dispersed the unruly mob.
<b>discomfit</b>  <b>discomfort</b>	The two are often confused. <b>Discomfit</b> originally meant "to defeat utterly." It has come to mean "to fluster," "to embarrass." <b>Discomfort</b> is usually used as a noun meaning "anxiety," "nervousness."
<b>discreet</b>  <b>discrete</b>	<b>Discreet</b> means "modest and prudent": Please be discreet about the surprise party, we don't want her to find out. <b>Discrete</b> means "separate and distinct": Even though they

	were married, they kept their money in two discrete accounts.
<b>disinterested</b>	<b>Disinterested</b> is an adjective that means "unbiased or impartial": Since she had nothing at stake, she was a disinterested party in the matter.
<b>uninterested</b>	<b>Uninterested</b> means "not interested": Anita Job was just uninterested in the offer.
<b>dispersion</b> <b>aspersion</b>	<u>See <b>aspersion, dispersion.</b></u>
<b>dual</b> <b>duel</b>	<b>Dual</b> : double; having two parts. <b>Duel</b> : a two-sided conflict (noun); to fight a duel (verb).
<b>WORDS</b>	<b>(E) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>
<b>e. g.</b> <b>i. e.</b>	<b>e. g.</b> is a Latin abbreviation meaning "for example": Lucille doesn't like fruit, e.g. pears, apples, grapes, and bananas. <b>i. e.</b> is a Latin abbreviation meaning "that is (to say)": Myrtle had to leave the room, i.e. she had to go to the bathroom.
<b>each other</b> <b>one another</b>	Use <b>each other</b> when only two objects are involved: The twins love each other. Use <b>one another</b> in referring to more than two objects: The triplets all love one another.
<b>each</b> <b>every</b>	These are singular distributive pronouns; use them with a singular verb. <b>Each</b> refers to a single individual in a group: Each of us voted differently. <b>Every</b> refers to all the members of a group inclusively: Every one of us voted the same.
<b>effect</b> <b>affect</b>	<u>See <b>affect, effect</b></u>
<b>elicit</b> <b>illicit</b>	<b>Elicit</b> is a verb that means "to draw out": The teacher had trouble eliciting responses from the students. <b>Illicit</b> is an adjective meaning "illegal or illegitimate": Illicit drugs or illicit behavior may help you enter jail.
<b>elude</b> <b>allude</b>	<u>See <b>allude, elude</b></u>
<b>emigrant</b> <b>immigrant</b>	An <b>emigrant</b> is a person who leaves his native country to settle in another: The emigrants left everything behind in search of something more. An <b>immigrant</b> refers is person who moves to a new country: Many immigrants settle in this country every year.

<b>emigrate</b>	<b>Emigrate</b> from means "to leave one's country": Frances emigrated to the US.
<b>immigrate</b>	<b>Immigrate</b> to means "to settle in another country": Her family immigrated to the US four generations ago.
<b>eminent</b>	<b>Eminent</b> means "of high rank, outstanding, or prestigious": An eminent author came to read at the university.
<b>emanant</b>	<b>Emanant</b> means "sending or issuing forth": Emanant thoughts like those should be kept to yourself.
<b>imminent</b>	<b>Imminent</b> means "close to happening or near": Everyone waited anxiously for an imminent storm predicted to arrive shortly.
<b>empathy</b>	When we have <b>empathy</b> , we are able to put ourselves in other people's place and even feel their pain, or think we do.
<b>sympathy</b>	<b>Sympathy</b> is more removed than empathy. When we have sympathy, we may not suffer along with those who are hurting, but we have compassion and are often willing to help.
<b>Enervate</b>	<b>Innervate</b> means "to supply with nerves or vitality": The therapist innervated the shoulders with massage.
<b>innervate</b>	<b>Enervate</b> is to weaken or destroy the vitality of: The negative attitude enervated her enthusiasm.
<b>entomology</b>	<b>Enervate</b> is to weaken or destroy the vitality of: The negative attitude enervated her enthusiasm.
<b>etymology</b>	<b>Etymology</b> is the study of the history of words and where they come from: The etymology of <i>mortify</i> goes back to Latin <i>mortuus</i> "dead". is nice.
<b>etc.</b>	<b>Etc.</b> is Latin for <i>et cetera</i> and means "and so on": You need to bring plates, knives, forks, spoons, etc. to the table. It is a good idea, however, to just finish the list, not letting it end with etc. But if you must, use a phrase like "and so on", "and so forth".
<b>ethereal</b>	<b>Ethereal</b> describes something that is light, airy, and intangible: Ethereal clouds hovered above; Everything in the ballroom looked ethereal.
<b>ephemeral</b>	<b>Ephemeral</b> refers to anything lasting for a short period: Truth can be an ephemeral thing; A creek can be ephemeral if it disappears in the middle of summer.
<b>every day</b>	The two-word term <b>every day</b> is an adverbial phrase that answers the questions when or how often, as in I learn

<b>everyday</b>	something new every day. As one word, <b>everyday</b> is an adjective that means "ordinary" or "part of a daily routine": These are my everyday clothes.
<b>everyone</b> <b>every one</b>	<b>Everyone</b> means "each person": Everyone in the room must leave immediately. <b>Every one</b> refers to each thing or person individually: Felice put every one of the eggs in the basket.
<b>exceed</b> <b>accede</b>	<b>See <u>accede, exceed</u></b>
<b>except</b> <b>accept</b>	<b>See <u>accept, except</u></b>
<b>explicit</b> <b>implicit</b>	<b>Explicit</b> means "clear and direct": Please give me explicit directions. <b>Implicit</b> means "indirectly, with some parts understood": They implicitly agreed to never talk on the subject again.
<b>WORDS (F) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>faint</b> <b>feint</b>	<b>Faint:</b> to go unconscious. <b>Feint:</b> a distracting move meant to throw an opponent off guard (from feign).
<b>fair</b> <b>fare</b>	A <b>fair</b> is an exhibition of farm produce usually with a collection of rides and attractions: Every year our family goes to the state fair. A <b>fare</b> is the fee you pay to ride public transportation: The fare to ride the bus is affordable in our town.
<b>farther</b> <b>further</b>	<b>Farther</b> has to do with distance: How much farther is it to Poughkeepsie? <b>Further</b> means "additional" or "more": Please give me further information about the best route to Poughkeepsie.
<b>faze</b> <b>phase</b>	Faze is to distress or disturb: The scrutiny of the media didn't faze Sharon. A <b>phase</b> is a period of development or a period of time in a cycle of events: Stuart went through a phase when all he did was eat hot dogs.
<b>few</b> <b>less</b>	<b>Few</b> is used when talking about things that can be counted: Lureen has a few ideas; also a few keys, few clouds, few values, few diseases. <b>Less</b> is used when talking about things that can't be

	counted: Lureen shows less perseverance than we expected; also less distance, less pollution, less rain.
<b>figuratively</b>	<b>Figuratively</b> refers to metaphoric speech, not realistic or exact: To say, "Horace died laughing," is to speak figuratively.
<b>literally</b>	<b>Literally</b> refers to realistic or exact speech: If Horace literally died laughing, he must be buried (but it was not such a bad way to go).
<b>fir</b> <b>fur</b>	<b>Fir:</b> a type of tree. <b>Fur:</b> animal hair.
<b>flammable</b> <b>inflammable</b>	These two words both mean "easily set on fire": a highly <b>flammable/inflammable</b> substance. However, <b>flammable</b> is now used as a warning to avoid misinterpreting the prefix <i>in-</i> as negation
<b>flare</b> <b>flair</b>	<b>Flare</b> is to increase greatly, burn brightly, or something that provides a bright flame: The fire in the grill flared brightly when Eva tossed gasoline on it. <b>Flair</b> refers to a sense of style or a talent: Dutch Masters has a flair for entertaining a group of men.
<b>flaunt</b> <b>flout</b>	To <b>flaunt</b> means "to show off": Maud Lynn Dresser likes to flaunt her jewels at parties. To <b>flout</b> means "to show scorn or contempt for": Larry flouts the speed limit in every state when it suits his schedule.
<b>flea</b> <b>flee</b>	<b>Flea:</b> a type of insect. <b>Flee:</b> to run away.
<b>flour</b> <b>flower</b>	<b>Flour:</b> an edible powder prepared by grinding grains. <b>Flower:</b> the bloom of a plant.
<b>forbear</b> <b>forebear</b>	<b>Forbear</b> means "to refrain from": The children simply could not forbear laughing in the library. A <b>forebear</b> is an ancestor or forefather: Our forebears who founded this country centuries ago.
<b>foreword</b> <b>forward</b>	A <b>foreword</b> is a short introduction at the beginning of a book usually written by someone other than the author: The foreword of the book explains how its thesis fits in with current thinking. <b>Forward</b> is an adverb indicating movement ahead or toward the front: Priscilla moves forward slowly in the line at the grocery store.
<b>forth</b>	<b>Forth</b> means "forward, from this point": Barry moved forth

<b>fourth</b>	without looking back. <b>Fourth</b> indicates an object that comes between No. 3 and No. 5: Dustin Moppet just finished cleaning the fourth floor.
<b>foul</b>	<b>Foul</b> can means "offensive, rotten, or unfavorable": Foul language, foul meat, and foul weather are unacceptable at a picnic. <b>Fowl</b> refers to birds, especially domestic ones: Chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys are considered fowl.
<b>fowl</b>	
<b>found</b>	<b>Found</b> is the past tense of find: I found my glasses only after I had stepped on them! <b>Founded</b> is past tense of the verb found, meaning "to set up or establish": My ancestors were the ones who founded this country.
<b>founded</b>	
<b>founder</b> <b>flounder</b>	<b>Founder</b> means "to run aground": The boat foundered on a shoal in the storm. <b>Flounder</b> means "to move clumsily, with difficulty" or "to blunder": Gladys Friday is floundering in college.
<b>WORDS (G - H) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>gait</b> <b>gate</b>	<b>Gait</b> : stride; the way a person or animal walks or runs. <b>Gate</b> : a barrier.
<b>gel</b> <b>jell</b>	In popular usage, <b>jell</b> means "to come together": Our team is starting to jell. <b>Gel</b> refers to a jellylike substance: hair gel.
<b>gibe</b> <b>gybe</b> <b>jibe</b>	<b>Gibe</b> means "to taunt, jeer, make fun of": His classmates gibed Billy Earl for wearing his underwear over his clothes. <b>Gybe</b> means "to swing a fore-and-aft sail from one side of a sailboat to the other to change course": When the wind shifted, Felix gybed when he should have tacked. <b>Gybe</b> means "to swing a fore-and-aft sail from one side of a sailboat to the other to change course": When the wind shifted, Felix gybed when he should have tacked.
<b>gilt</b> <b>guilt</b>	<b>Gilt</b> : gold coating. <b>Guilt</b> : fault; blame; shame
<b>gorilla</b> <b>guerrilla</b>	A <b>gorilla</b> is a large ape: Gorillas live in the African tropical forest. A <b>guerrilla</b> is a member of irregular military that uses surprise attacks on its enemy: Guerrilla warfare uses tactics such as espionage, sabotage, and ambush.

<b>grill</b>	<b>Grill:</b> a grated metal cooking utensil (noun); to cook over direct heat (verb).
<b>grille</b>	<b>Grille:</b> a network of metal, wooden, or plastic bars that acts as a barrier or screen.
<b>hail</b>	<b>Hail</b> means "to greet or to come from": She hails from California. Hail also means "balls of ice": Hail damaged the crops.
<b>hale</b>	<b>Hale</b> means "sound or healthy": Minnie Miles is hale and hearty enough to run five miles daily.
<b>hall</b>	<b>Hall:</b> a passageway; a large room.
<b>haul</b>	<b>Haul:</b> to pull or drag
<b>hanged</b>	<b>Hanged</b> is past tense of hang in the sense of executing someone by using a rope around the neck: Outlaws in the Old West were hanged when they could be caught.
<b>hung</b>	<b>Hung</b> is the past tense of hang, but is used for things: Lyda Cain's son never hung up his clothes. Just remember hanged is used for people (Yuck!), and hung is used for other things.
<b>hardly</b>	This is a word used in a negative sense meaning "barely": Lyle could <b>hardly</b> keep his eyes open at the lecture by Rhoda Book.
<b>hare</b>	<b>Hair:</b> what grows on the head and body.
<b>hair</b>	<b>Hare:</b> a rabbit.
<b>heal</b>	<b>Heal:</b> to repair; to restore to health.
<b>heel</b>	<b>Heel:</b> the back part of the foot; a scoundrel.
<b>herd</b>	A <b>herd</b> is a group of animals: Nonnie saw a herd of cows in the pasture.
<b>heard</b>	<b>Heard</b> is the past tense of hear: Zelda heard the bells ringing for the glorious leader who had recently died.
<b>here</b>	<b>Here</b> refers to the place where you are: You should come here more often.
<b>hear</b>	<b>Hear</b> is to listen with the ears: Am I speaking loud enough for you to hear me?
<b>heroin</b>	<b>Heroin</b> is an illicit drug: Heroin is a very addicting substance.
<b>heroine</b>	A <b>heroine</b> is a female hero in real life or in a story: Marge was treated like a heroine when she delivered the baby in a cab.
<b>historic</b>	<b>Historic</b> refers to something in history that was important: The summit was a historic meeting between the countries.

<b>historical</b>	<b>Historical</b> refers to anything in general history: The whole class had to dress in historical costumes for the play.
<b>hoard</b>	<b>Hoard</b> means "to collect and keep for oneself": Squirrels hoard acorns during the winter.
<b>horde</b>	A <b>horde</b> is a large group: Hordes of people go Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving.
<b>hole</b>	A <b>hole</b> is a gap or space: A moth made a hole in my sweater.
<b>whole</b>	<b>Whole</b> means "complete": Stu Beef ate the whole pizza himself!
<b>Home</b>	<b>Home</b> in is the correct phrase here is when referring to getting closer to a goal or target: The missile homed in electronically on the target.
<b>hone</b>	<b>Hone</b> means "to sharpen": Denise made a resolution to hone her piano playing skills.
<b>human (adj.)</b>	Relating to or typical of <b>human</b> beings. Representative of the sympathies and frailties of <b>human</b> nature.
<b>humane (adj.)</b>	Example: It's ok to make mistakes. You're only <b>human</b> ! Showing compassion, sympathy, or consideration for humans or animals. Example: It was very <b>humane</b> of you to give the homeless man your sweater.
<b>WORDS (I – J – K) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>idle</b>	<b>Idle</b> : not active; unemployed.
<b>idol</b>	<b>Idol</b> : an effigy; a beloved celebrity.
<b>idyll</b>	<b>Idyll</b> : a happy interlude; prose or poetry describing rural serenity.
<b>i. e.</b>	<u>See e. g., i. e.</u>
<b>e. g.</b>	
<b>illicit</b>	<u>See elicit, illicit.</u>
<b>elicit</b>	
<b>illusion</b>	<u>See allusion, illusion.</u>
<b>allusion</b>	
<b>immemorial</b>	<b>Immemorial</b> refers to that which is beyond time, ancient: These artifacts have been here since time immemorial.
<b>immortal</b>	<b>Immortal</b> describes things that live forever: The way Randolph drives, he must think that he is immortal.
<b>immoral</b>	<b>Immoral</b> means "not nice, unethical, bad": Stealing is

	<b>immoral.</b>
immoral amoral	<u>See amoral, immoral.</u>
immigrant emigrant	<u>See emigrant, immigrant.</u>
immigrate emigrate	<u>See emigrate, immigrate.</u>
imminent eminent, emanant	<u>See eminent.</u>
implicate, imply	<b>Implicate</b> means "to closely link or connect": The blood on his hands implicated him in the murder. <b>Imply</b> means "to point to, or suggest indirectly": The victim's friend implied he thought he knew who the murderer was.
implicit explicit	<u>See explicit, implicit.</u>
imply infer	<b>Imply</b> means "to suggest indirectly": Her hesitation implied that her answer was no. <b>Infer</b> means "to draw a conclusion from known facts": He inferred that the answer was no from her hesitation.
in regard to as regards	Both of these mean "referring to", but use one or the other: <b>In regard to</b> your proposal I have an idea, or: <b>As regards</b> your proposal, I have an idea. NOT in regards to!
Inchoate incoherent	<b>Inchoate</b> describes something in an early stage of development, and that is incomplete: Lucy's plan remained inchoate and was developed no further. <b>Incoherent</b> describes something that is lacking connection or order: Some even thought that Lucy's plan was just a few incoherent thoughts that didn't hang together.
incite insight	<b>Incite</b> : to provoke; stir up. <b>Insight</b> : understanding; comprehension.
Incredible incredulous	<b>Incredible</b> means "astonishing or difficult to grasp": The incredible power of a tornado attracts storm chasers. <b>Incredulous</b> means "skeptical and disbelieving": She was incredulous about Fred's interpretation of the event.
induction deduction	<u>See deduction, induction.</u>
innervate	<u>See enervate, innervate.</u>

enervate	
insure ensure assure	<u>See assure, ensure, insure.</u>
intolerable intolerant	<b>Intolerable</b> refers to something unbearable: The heat during the summer of 2005 was intolerable. <b>Intolerant</b> refers to a person who is unable to accept differences in opinion, habit, or belief: Maybelle is intolerant of anyone who chews with their mouth open.
regardless irregardless	<b>Regardless</b> is the correct word to use, meaning "without regard": The young man left regardless of the warnings. <b>Irregardless</b> is a double negative that should be avoided.
its it's	<b>Its</b> is the possessive form of it, like hers, his, and theirs: The dog licked its foot after stepping in maple syrup. <b>It's</b> is short for 'it is', a contraction of those two words: "Well, I guess it's [it is] time to wash the dog again."
jibe gibe gybe	<u>See gibe, gybe, jibe.</u>
kind of sort of	Avoid these expressions in the sense of "somewhat", "rather" or "a little" (especially avoid reducing them to <b>kinda</b> and <b>sorta</b> ). The pace of the baseball game was rather [not <b>kind of</b> ] slow.
knew new	<b>Knew</b> is the past tense of know: She knew what she wanted to say but couldn't say it. <b>New</b> means "never used": I ordered a new custom car from the factory today.
<b>WORDS (L) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
latent patent	<b>Latent</b> means "present but not visible or active": Just because I'm not in bed doesn't mean that I don't have a latent virus. <b>Patent</b> means "visible, active, or obvious": The claim that I pinched Marilyn's tush is a patent lie!
later latter	<b>Later</b> means "afterward": Come later than seven o'clock. <b>Latter</b> means "the last of two things mentioned": If I have to choose between brains or beauty, I'll take the latter.
lay	<b>Lay</b> is a transitive verb, which means it takes an object. It

<b>lie</b>	<p>means "to set or put down flat": Gwendolyn laid child in the crib, or Lay a book on the table, please. Its forms are <i>lay, lays, laid, has laid, and is laying</i>.</p> <p><b>Lie</b> is an intransitive verb, so it does not take an object. It means "to rest supine or remain in a certain place": I have to lie down because I'm not feeling well, or I like to lie in the grass for hours. Its forms are <i>lie, lies, lay, has lain, and is lying</i>.</p>
<b>lead</b>	<b>Lead</b> can be a verb meaning "to guide, be in charge of": Greg will lead a group this afternoon. It can also be a noun meaning "a type of metallic element": Use a lead pencil to fill in your answer sheet.
<b>led</b>	<b>Led</b> is the past tense of <i>lead</i> : Greg led the group this afternoon.
<b>leak</b> <b>leek</b>	<b>Leak</b> : an unintended discharge of liquid or gas. <b>Leek</b> : a type of onion.
<b>lend</b>	Lend is a verb that mean "to temporarily give something to someone": Lucy will lend or loan Chuck her books any day.
<b>loan</b>	A <b>loan</b> is a noun meaning something borrowed: Most people get a bank loan to buy a house. Loan is also used in American English as a verb meaning "to lend".
<b>borrow</b>	<b>Borrow</b> is to receive something from someone temporarily: Can I borrow the book if I promise to return it tomorrow?
<b>less</b> <b>few</b>	<u>See few, less.</u>
<b>lessen</b> <b>lesson</b>	<b>Lessen</b> means "to decrease or make less": She lessened the headache pain with aspirin. A <b>lesson</b> is something you learn: A teacher might say, "Today's lesson is about ancient Egypt."
<b>liable</b> <b>libel</b>	<b>Liable</b> means "legally responsible for or subject to": Tom is liable to pay for the damage if he doesn't prove his innocence. <b>Libel</b> is a noun that means "a slanderous statement that damages another person's reputation": Bertrand was sued for libel for what he printed about Phil Anders.
<b>Lightening</b> <b>lightning</b>	<b>Lightening</b> is a verb that means "to reduce the weight of": My course load needs lightening if I am to complete this course successfully. <b>Lightning</b> refers to the electrical discharge in the sky: Fred captured the image of a bolt of lightning on film.

like as	<u>See as, like.</u>
literally figuratively	<u>See figuratively, literally.</u>
lithe blithe	<u>See figuratively, literally.</u>
loathe  loath	<b>Loathe</b> is a verb meaning "to detest or dislike greatly": Janice loathes animal cruelty. <b>Loath</b> is an adjective meaning "reluctant, unwilling": Lance was loath to ask for an extension on his term paper that semester.
loan lone	<b>Loan:</b> something given temporarily. <b>Lone:</b> only; solitary.
loose  lose	<b>Loose</b> is not tight: A loose-fitting jacket was more suitable than a shawl. <b>Lose</b> is to misplace and not be able to find: I often lose my bearings when entering a new city. Thank goodness I don't lose my keys though!
<b>WORDS (M) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
mail male	<b>Mail:</b> correspondence. <b>Male:</b> masculine.
manner  manor	<b>Manner</b> is a way of doing or behaving: Duane Pipes installed the plumbing in a workman-like manner. A <b>manor</b> is a house on an estate: The chauffeur drove slowly up to the manor.
mantel  mantle	A <b>manor</b> is a house on an estate: The chauffeur drove slowly up to the manor. A <b>mantle</b> is a cloak or blanket: Velma grabbed her mantle before heading out the door.
marital  martial	<b>Marital</b> refers to marriage: Bunny and Lance are having marital problems. <b>Martial</b> refers to war or warriors: Bunny has a black belt in martial arts.
marshal  marshall	A <b>marshal</b> is an officer of highest ranking; it can mean "to arrange": The marshal gave orders to the troops. <b>Marshall</b> is a verb meaning "to together": Marshall marshaled enough strength to walk past the bar on his way

	home.
<b>marry</b> <b>merry</b>	<b>Marry:</b> to wed. <b>Merry:</b> cheerful.
<b>may be</b> <b>maybe</b>	<b>May be</b> as two words means "might be": Your reading glasses may be on the night stand. <b>Maybe</b> is one word that means "perhaps": Maybe your reading glasses are on the night stand.
<b>me</b> <b>myself</b>	<b>Me</b> is used as a simple object: Susan told my brother and me about her trip to Africa. <b>Myself</b> is a reflexive and an emphatic pronoun: I talk to myself [reflexive] or you can do that yourself [emphatic].
<b>medal</b> <b>meddle</b> <b>metal</b> <b>mettle</b>	<b>Medal:</b> a decoration; a badge. <b>Meddle:</b> to interfere. <b>Metal:</b> an earth element. <b>Mettle:</b> boldness; grit.
<b>meet</b> <b>mete</b> <b>meat</b>	<b>Meet</b> means "to get together or connect with someone, to encounter": Elroy plans to meet a colleague for lunch. <b>Mete</b> means "to distribute": We had to mete out the last of the water when we were still 20 miles from civilization on our hiking trip. <b>Meat</b> is flesh that may be eaten: Nathan is a vegetarian who doesn't eat meat at all.
<b>militate</b> <b>mitigate</b>	<b>Militate</b> means "to influence toward or against a change": The banality of Rhoda Book's stories militated against their becoming popular. <b>Mitigate</b> means "to lessen, make easier, or bearable": A cold compress on your leg will mitigate the swelling.
<b>moral</b> <b>morale</b>	<b>Moral:</b> a lesson (noun); ethical (adjective). <b>Morale:</b> spirit; level of enthusiasm.
<b>mordant</b> <b>trenchant</b>	<b>Mordant</b> is biting sarcasm: Everyone hated Raymond's mordant comments. <b>Trenchant</b> means "forceful and keen": Raymond received trenchant criticism from everyone for his comments.
<b>morning</b> <b>mourning</b>	<b>Morning:</b> the start of the day, between night and afternoon. <b>Mourning:</b> sorrow over a tragedy.
<b>muscle</b> <b>mussel</b>	<b>Muscle:</b> fibrous tissue; strength. <b>Mussel:</b> an edible marine bivalve.

most almost	<u>See almost, most.</u>
mute moot	<b>Mute</b> means "having no sound or without speech": He was struck mute by the horror of the events. <b>Moot</b> as a noun is a public meeting; as an adjective, the more common usage, means "open to debate" in the UK and "not open to debate" in the US. It is most often used in the phrase <i>moot point</i> : When Walter walked in, the question of who was going to pick him up became moot.
<b>WORDS (N - O) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
naval navel	<b>Naval</b> : pertaining to ships; nautical. <b>Navel</b> : belly button.
no know	<b>No</b> means "the opposite of yes": They all said no in response to the latest referendum. To <b>know</b> is to understand or realize: I don't want to know how you got up the tree.
noisome noisy	<b>Noisome</b> means "disgusting, offensive, and potentially harmful": A noisome smell arose from the garbage can. <b>Noisy</b> means "making a lot of sound or racket": With so many children, it became a noisy day care center.
nonplussed	<b>Nonplussed</b> is often misused in the sense of "calm and unbothered". The actual meaning is "confused or bewildered": She was nonplussed by her husband's unusual behavior.
nowhere nowheres	<u>See anyway, anywhere, nowhere; anyways, anywheres, nowheres.</u>
obeisance obsequious	<b>Obeisance</b> is respect and homage paid someone: Farina greeted the queen with sincere obeisance. <b>Obsequiousness</b> is submissiveness and an eagerness to obey: The obsequiousness of the waiter made them roll their eyes.
obtuse abstruse	<b>Obtuse</b> means "lacking quickness of wit or sensitivity, dull, dense": Brandon is so obtuse he doesn't even know when he is being insulted. <b>Abstruse</b> means "too difficult to understand for the average mind": The professor presented an abstruse metaphysical concept that went over our heads.
one another	<u>See each other, one another.</u>

each other	
ordinance ordnance	<b>Ordinance:</b> a law. <b>Ordnance:</b> military weapons and ammunition
overdo	<b>Overdo</b> is to exaggerate something: Marcy overdoes her makeup every morning and she ends up looking like a clown.
overdue	<b>Overdue</b> indicates something that has missed its deadline: You must return these overdue books to the library immediately, or A visit to our grandparents is long overdue.
<b>WORDS (P) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
pail pale	<b>Pail:</b> a bucket. <b>Pale:</b> lacking color.
pain pane	<b>Pain:</b> physical or emotional suffering. <b>Pane:</b> a glazed piece or section of a door, window, etc.
palate palette	<b>Palate:</b> the roof of the mouth; taste. <b>Palette:</b> a range of colors; a board to hold and mix paint colors.
pallet	<b>Pallet:</b> a low, portable platform.
pamper	To <b>pamper</b> is to coddle, or treat with indulgence: The only time my mom pampers me is when I'm sick.
pander	To <b>pander</b> is to cater to the base needs of others, to sell out: Senator Throckmorton got elected by pandering to special interest groups.
parish perish	<b>Parish:</b> a district with its own church and clergy. <b>Perish:</b> to stop existing; to die.
passed	<b>Passed</b> is the past tense of pass, to go by or move ahead of: The boys passed through town quickly.
past	<b>Past</b> is a place in time that was before now: You would be wise to reflect on the past and learn from it.
pastime Past time	A <b>pastime</b> is a leisurely pursuit or hobby. The phrase <b>past time</b> refers to something that should have happened or been done by now. It's past time that people realized that pastime is one word.
pasture	A <b>pasture</b> is a place where farm animals graze: Al Falfa puts his cows out into the pasture every morning.
pastor	A <b>pastor</b> is a member of the clergy, a minister of a church:

	Noah Sarque is the pastor of the local Baptist Church.
patent latent	<u>See latent, patent.</u>
patience	<b>Patience</b> is the ability to remain calm even when dealing with someone or something difficult: The teacher showed infinite patience for the students struggling with the reading material. ( <u>See also assistance and assistants</u> )
patients	<b>Patients</b> are people who are sick in a hospital: The nurse had several new patients to get to know that week.
peace	<b>Peace</b> is a sense of calm and absence of war or hostility: We all hope for peace throughout the world.
piece	A <b>piece</b> is a part or segment of something: Helen Highwater lost a piece of her jewelry in church last Sunday.
peek	To <b>peek</b> is to look quickly without someone knowing: The child peeked inside the gift.
pique	To <b>pique</b> is to arouse or provoke: Muriel's comment piqued Abner's curiosity. Pique can also be used as a noun meaning "resentment": Sedgewick felt a bit of pique at the association of his name with their real estate scheme.
peak	A <b>peak</b> is the highest point of something: Chastity decided not to drive to the top of Pike's Peak during the peak summer vacation season.
peal peel	<b>Peal</b> : to ring. <b>Peel</b> : to strip.
pedal peddle	<b>Pedal</b> : a foot-activated lever (noun); to operate something with pedals, such as a bicycle or organ (verb). <b>Peddle</b> : to sell or publicize.
peer	To <b>peer</b> is to squint and gaze strongly at: Melvin had to peer through fog to keep the car on the highway.
pier	a <b>peer</b> is an equal: Farnsworth didn't consider anyone his peer when it came to the game of tiddledy winks. A <b>pier</b> is a walkway that juts into a body of water for docking: He docked his boat at the end of the pier.
penultimate	<b>Penultimate</b> means "the next to the last (the ultimate)": Little did Al Pacca know that the penultimate shrimp he ate was the one that gave him food poisoning.
ultimate	<b>Ultimate</b> is the last or best: I found the ultimate gift for Gary this year.
perpetrate	<b>Perpetrate</b> : to commit a crime.

<b>perpetuate</b>	<b>Perpetuate:</b> to prolong or sustain.
<b>persecute (v)</b>	To make somebody the victim of harassment. To annoy someone with persistent approaches. Example: The red gang members enjoy <b>persecuting</b> the blue gang members.
<b>prosecute (v)</b>	To bring legal action against someone for punishment of a crime or violation of law. Example: The state will <b>prosecute</b> the defendant for murder
<b>personal (adj.)</b>	Relating to an individual. Private, individual Example: Celebrities do not want their <b>personal</b> lives written about in tabloid newspapers.
<b>personnel (n)</b>	The division of a company responsible for hiring workers. Example: Take your application to the <b>personnel</b> office.
<b>perspective</b>	A <b>perspective</b> is a view from a certain place or position or a mental outlook: The perspective from this building is spectacular, or Lydia Potts has a wonderful perspective on life considering the fact that she has 12 kids.
<b>prospective</b>	<b>Prospective</b> is an adjective that means "possible, likely to happen": We have several prospective opportunities before us.
<b>persuade convince</b>	<u>See convince, persuade.</u>
<b>phase faze</b>	<u>See faze, phase.</u>
<b>piquant pique</b>	<b>Piquant</b> means "pleasantly tart or spicy": This restaurant serves a piquant salsa that is absolutely delicious. To <b>pique</b> is to arouse or provoke: Grunella piqued Vern's curiosity with her question.
<b>pistil pistol</b>	<b>Pistil:</b> the female organ of a flower. <b>Pistol:</b> a gun.
<b>plain plane</b>	<b>Plain</b> means "simple not showy" or "a large level region": It was plain to see that Vanessa loved Conway, or Bowser's farm was on a great plain where wheat grew well. A <b>plane</b> is a flat and level surface, a new level, or an airplane: To understand the equation of a plane surface in mathematics you have to reach a new plane of consciousness. Franklin landed the plane successfully.
<b>plum plumb</b>	<b>Plum:</b> a type of fruit. <b>Plumb:</b> to examine (verb); upright; vertical (adjectives); totally; precisely (adverbs)

pole poll	<b>Pole:</b> a long, cylindrical piece of wood or metal. <b>Poll:</b> a collection of opinions; a survey.
portent  potent	A <b>portent</b> is a noun meaning "an omen or prophetic sign of the future": Ivan Oder took falling out of bed that morning as a portent of a greater disaster in the future. <b>Potent</b> is an adjective meaning "strong and powerful": Arnold was a potent man, even at seventy, but could not handle the potent martinis Bella Donna made.
pour  pore  pore  poor	To <b>pour</b> is to dispense liquid from one container into another: She poured some milk into the glass. A <b>pore</b> is to study or read intensely: Hilda pored over the materials nightly. <b>Pore</b> also means "a small opening in skin through which moisture or air moves": <b>Pores</b> are all over our bodies. <b>Poor</b> deprived, not having money.
practical  practicable	<b>Practical</b> refers to being easily used and put into practice: A Swiss Army knife has many practical uses. <b>Practicable</b> means "feasible or possible": It is not always practicable for a busy person to use this tool.
pray prey	<b>Pray:</b> to speak to a deity. <b>Prey:</b> a victim (noun); to hunt, to exploit (verbs).
precede  proceed	The verb <b>precede</b> means "to come or go before, in front of": The flower girl preceded the bride in the procession down the aisle. <b>Proceed</b> means "to move forward": Both the flower girl and the bride proceeded down the aisle at the same time.
Premier  premiere	<b>Premier</b> is generally an adjective meaning "the best," "of unsurpassed quality, skill, or importance." As a noun, it refers to a head of government. <b>A premiere</b> is an opening night or first performance.
premise  premises	A <b>premise</b> usually means "assumption": Since the basic premise was wrong, all the conclusions based on it were wrong, too. <b>Premises</b> are a house or building and the grounds around it: Smoking is not allowed on the premises.
presence  presents	<b>Presence</b> means "the state of being near": April's presence was comforting in Rod's time of sorrow. <b>Presents</b> are gifts: The greatest gift is to let someone give you a present.

<b>principal</b>	A <b>principal</b> is the head of a professional business or school: The principal of the middle school is a woman of principles.
<b>principle</b>	A <b>principle</b> is a belief: I avoid school principals as a matter of principle.
<b>profit</b>	<b>Profit</b> is the money earned above the expense it took to complete the project: Ghislaine and Pierre made a \$100,000 profit when they remodeled and sold their house.
<b>prophet</b>	A <b>prophet</b> is a person who can foretell the future and through which a divine presence speaks: Atheism is a non-prophet religion.
<b>profligate</b>	<b>Profligate</b> is to be wasteful and extravagant: Esmeralda is so profligate that she spent the entire million dollars she won in the lottery in one year.
<b>prolific</b>	<b>Prolific</b> means "abundant, fruitful, producing much": John Grisham is a prolific writer.
<b>purposely</b>	These words share much common ground, and they are sometimes interchangeable, but there are distinct differences. <b>Purposely</b> means "intentionally," but some acts are intentional, yet pointless: Little Jimmy purposely threw Alice's lunch in the mud.
<b>purposefully</b>	Someone who does something <b>purposefully</b> is on a mission, with an important goal in mind: The rescue team purposefully combed the woods for the missing child.
<b>WORDS (Q - R) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>quiet</b>	<b>Quiet</b> means "without sound or mention of": You are supposed to be quiet in hospitals and libraries.
<b>quite</b>	<b>Quite</b> can mean either "completely or somewhat, rather", depending on what you mean: I was quite alone that Saturday afternoon (completely) but the hours passed quite quickly (rather).
<b>quote</b>	<b>Quote</b> is a verb meaning "to state the exact words someone else said": The pastor quoted scripture from the Bible or Carmen quoted a famous psychologist in complaining to the boss.
<b>quotation</b>	A <b>quotation</b> is the actual statement being quoted: Gretchen read a quotation every day.
<b>rack</b> <b>wrack</b>	As a verb, <b>rack</b> means "to afflict," "oppress," "torment." To <b>wrack</b> is to cause the ruin of. A lot of people mistakenly write things like "nerve-wracking" and "I wracked my brains." Drop the w in both cases. Both

	expressions derive from that device in the torture hall of fame called the rack.
<b>rain</b>	<b>Rain</b> is the water that falls from the sky: Dingwell didn't have sense enough to come in out of the rain.
<b>reign</b>	<b>Reign</b> is the rule of a king of queen: King Wilhelm reigned with an iron fist to keep peace in the land.
<b>rein</b>	A <b>rein</b> (usually plural, <i>reins</i> ) are the straps of leather used to control and guide a horse: No matter how hard Reginald pulled on the reins, the horse would not slow down.
<b>raise</b>	<b>Raise</b> means "to build or grow": The farmer raises corn. The Amish will raise the walls of a building by noon.
<b>raze</b>	<b>Raze</b> is to destroy: The school was razed and a new one built in its place.
<b>rap</b>	<b>Rap</b> : a sharp blow; a type of music (nouns); to strike sharply (verb).
<b>wrap</b>	<b>Wrap</b> : to enclose in a covering.
<b>real</b>	<b>Real</b> is a variant of <i>really</i> used in dialectal areas (like the Southern US) where adverbs are not distinguished from adjectives: She sings real good, in standard English is: She sings really well.
<b>really</b>	<b>Real</b> is a variant of <i>really</i> used in dialectal areas (like the Southern US) where adverbs are not distinguished from adjectives: She sings real good, in standard English is: She sings really well.
<b>reel</b>	<b>Reel</b> : a spool (noun); to stumble; falter (verbs).
<b>reality</b>	<b>Reality</b> means "the perceived world as it is, the true situation": She could not tell the difference between reality and fantasy.
<b>realty</b>	<b>Realty</b> is land or real estate: Realty in large cities is markedly expensive.
<b>rebate</b>	A <b>rebate</b> is a discount from the manufacturer to the customer after a purchase has been made: The \$600 computer cost only \$69.43 after all the rebates.
<b>refund</b>	A <b>refund</b> is a full repayment to a dissatisfied customer: Mildred returned her girdle and demanded a full refund.
<b>regimen</b>	<b>Regimen</b> is a systematic plan: Sylvia is undergoing a regimen for a healthier lifestyle.
<b>regiment</b>	<b>Regiment</b> is a troop of soldiers: The army is made up of several regiments.
<b>reign</b>	<b>Reign</b> : period in power (noun); to be in power (verb).

<b>rein</b>	<b>Rein:</b> a strap to control horses (noun); to control or guide (verb).
<b>residence</b> <b>residents</b>	A <b>residence</b> is where people live, the house or building: The mayor's residence is located in the center of the city. The <b>residents</b> are the people who live there: The residents of the community think the mayor's residence is too luxurious.
<b>respectable</b> <b>respectful</b> <b>respective</b>	<b>Respectable</b> means "deserving respect or on good behavior": Mother always told us to be respectable in public. <b>Respectful</b> refers to showing respect: Be respectful of the people around you, especially if they have sticks. <b>Respective</b> means "individual and appropriate": The summer camp kids were shown to their respective cabins.
<b>respectfully</b> <b>respectively</b>	<b>Respectfully</b> means "politely and with respect": Mel Pew always dealt respectfully with each and every customer. <b>Respectively</b> refers to the order in which things are given: I gave Wallace and Linda blue and green socks, respectively, means that I gave Wallace blue socks and Linda green ones.
<b>rest</b> <b>wrest</b>	<b>Rest:</b> to relax. <b>Wrest:</b> to take forcibly.
<b>restive</b> <b>restful</b>	<b>Restive</b> means "impatient and nervous, restless": Cory became restive once he knew the boss was going to call him into his office. <b>Restful</b> means "full of rest, calm, quiet, and restorative": A restful vacation in Indonesia was just what the doctor ordered.
<b>retch</b> <b>wretch</b>	To <b>retch</b> is to try and vomit: Furman retched several times after swallowing a bite of Lurleen's liver pudding. A <b>wretch</b> is a miserable or wicked person: I didn't believe she could be such a wretch.
<b>rifle</b> <b>riffle</b>	<b>Rifle</b> means to search with the intention of stealing or taking: The mugger rifled Clarissa's purse looking for cash. To <b>riffle</b> means "to shuffle or flip quickly through papers": Bill riffled the card deck before dealing.
<b>right</b> <b>rite</b>	<b>Right</b> means "correct": She always knew the right thing to say. A <b>rite</b> is a ceremony: Final rites for the deceased were held in the church.

<b>write</b>	To <b>write</b> is to express oneself in writing: Rhoda Book writes everyone about her publishing career.
<b>rise</b>	<b>Rise</b> is intransitive and does not have an object: The sun rises in the east.
<b>raise</b>	<b>Raise</b> always has an object: You can raise a crop on a farm or raise your hand in class.
<b>road</b>	<b>Road</b> is a long path or street to travel on: Lucille tries to stay on a main road wherever she travels.
<b>rode</b>	<b>Rode</b> is past tense of ride: Matilda rode her bicycle over a cliff by accident.
<b>rowed</b>	Past tense of <b>row</b>
<b>role</b>	A <b>role</b> is a part in a play or movie: Marjorie's favorite role of her entire movie career was that of the quirky neighbor in <i>Keep your Doors Locked</i> . It can also mean "a function of": Marjorie's role in removing the insignia from the police car door was minor.
<b>roll</b>	<b>Roll</b> is a verb meaning "to turn over and over": Diane rolled the flat tire into the garage.
<b>rye</b>	<b>Rye</b> : a grain.
<b>wry</b>	<b>Wry</b> : mocking; ironic; droll.
<b>WORDS (S) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>sale</b>	A <b>sale</b> is a noun meaning "the selling of something": Every car sale means a commission for the salesman.
<b>sail</b>	A <b>sail</b> is the material used to catch wind on a boat: The sail billowed in the wind as Jacob's boat slid across the water.
<b>sale</b>	A <b>sale</b> is a noun meaning "the selling of something": Every car sale means a commission for the salesman.
<b>sell</b>	To <b>sell</b> , the verb, is to offer goods for consumption at a cost: Seth sells his pottery at art fairs.
<b>sanguine</b>	<b>Sanguine</b> means "red, ruddy or optimistic": I am not sanguine about your getting this job.
<b>saturnine</b>	<b>Saturnine</b> means "being moody, sullen, or melancholy": Ima Aiken falls into a saturnine mood every time her husband Hadley goes away on business.
<b>saver</b>	<b>Saver</b> : someone or something that saves or conserves.
<b>savor</b>	<b>Savor</b> : to appreciate
<b>scene</b>	<b>Scene</b> is a place or view: The scene of the crime was just outside his window.

seen	<b>Seen</b> is past tense of see: I have seen that movie three times already.
scent sent	<b>Scent</b> : an aroma; a fragrance. <b>Sent</b> : taken; moved.
seam seem	A <b>seam</b> is where two pieces are joined: The seam of Leticia's dress ripped when she bent over. To <b>seem</b> is to appear or look as if: Leticia seemed unhappy when that happened.
semimonthly bimonthly	<u>See bimonthly, semimonthly.</u>
sensor censor censure	<u>See censor, sensor, censure.</u>
sensual sensuous	<b>Sensual</b> refers to physical, especially sexual, pleasure: Derry Yare wears sensual dresses to attract men. <b>Sensuous</b> refers to anything artistic that appeals to the senses or appetites: Marguerita had prepared a sensual feast for her guests.
serf surf	A <b>serf</b> is a slave or servant: Neil Downe came from a family of serfs but rose to become a landlord. To <b>surf</b> is to ride the waves of water, or to search on the Internet: The surf is up down at the beach; you can surf the Internet some other time.
set sit seat	<b>Set</b> is a transitive verb meaning "to put or place something solid somewhere": Marvin set his new lamp on the table. <b>Sit</b> means "to rest upright with the weight on the buttocks or to move into such a position"; the past tense is <i>sat</i> : Percy sat down beside Geneva on the park bench. <b>Seat</b> can be a verb meaning "to show someone their seat or where to sit": The waiter seated Murgatroyd at his usual table by the door.
sever severe	<b>Sever</b> means "to cut through completely": One blow from Jessie's hatchet severed the rope. <b>Severe</b> means "strict, hard, extreme": Severe winter weather came early this year. There was a severe tone in Marilyn's voice when she berated Todd for putting the tack in her chair.
sew so	<b>Sew</b> : to stitch. <b>So</b> : as a result; in the manner indicated.

sow	<b>Sow:</b> to scatter or plant seed.
shear	<b>Shear</b> means "to cut off": We shear sheep's wool in the spring and we shear the hedges in the summer.
sheer	<b>Sheer</b> means "pure, unadulterated": Felicity found the amusement park a sheer pleasure. Sheer also means "transparent": Perry Winkle hung sheer curtains in the living room.
shore	A <b>shore</b> is a beach: to spend a vacation on the shore. It also means "to brace or support": They shored up the leaning wall with steel beams.
sure	<b>Sure</b> means "without doubt": Maria was sure about the decision to move to another country.
singly	<b>Singly</b> means "one by one": The fire drill required everyone to leave the building quietly and singly.
singularly	<b>Singularly</b> means "extraordinarily, in an outstanding manner": He singularly fought the rebels off one by one.
sense (v)	To feel! Example: I <b>sensed</b> someone behind me. I turned around, but nobody was there.
since (adv.)	Adverb meaning from a definite past time until now.
site sight cite	S <b>See cite, site, sight.</b>
sleight-of-hand	<b>Sleight of hand</b> refers to dexterity and trickery with the hands: The magician's sleight of hand fooled the audience.
slight-of-hand	This phrase is often confused with <b>slight of hand</b> , an adjective phrase meaning "having small slender hands".
sleight slight	<b>Sleight:</b> dexterity; skill. <b>Slight:</b> slender; of little substance.
sole	<b>Sole</b> means "single": The sole remaining person in the room left, leaving it empty. It also means the bottom of a foot or shoe: Gigi needed new soles on her shoes.
soul	A <b>soul</b> refers to the spirit of a living creature: Do you believe animals have souls?
some time	<b>Some time</b> refers to a considerable period of time: I need some time to think about it.
sometime	<b>Sometime</b> refers to an indistinct or unstated time in the future: I'll see you around sometime.

<b>sometimes</b>	<b>Sometimes</b> is an adverb meaning continually, off and on, occasionally: Karen sometimes drinks coffee instead of tea.
<b>some</b> <b>sum</b>	<b>Some</b> : an unspecified number. <b>Sum</b> : the total from adding numbers.
<b>son</b> <b>sun</b>	<b>Son</b> : male offspring. <b>Sun</b> : the star that is the central body of our solar system.
<b>staid</b> <b>stayed</b>	<b>Staid</b> : solemn; serious. <b>Stayed</b> : remained; waited.
<b>stair</b> <b>stare</b>	<b>Stair</b> : a step. <b>Stare</b> : to gaze intently.
<b>stake</b> <b>steak</b>	<b>Stake</b> : a wager; an investment; a pole. <b>Steak</b> : a cut of meat.
<b>steal</b> <b>steel</b>	<b>Steal</b> : to rob. <b>Steel</b> : an iron alloy (noun); to toughen (verb).
<b>stationary</b> <b>stationery</b>	<b>Stationary</b> means "still and unmoving": The cat was stationary until it was time to pounce on its prey. <b>Stationery</b> refers to writing materials such as paper: Craig took out his best stationery to write to his beloved Charlotte Russe.
<b>statue</b> <b>statute</b> <b>stature</b>	A <b>statue</b> is a carved or shaped imitation of an object: There is a statue of a large bird in her garden. A <b>statute</b> is law: The government publishes new statutes each year. <b>Stature</b> means "status, standing": Chester Drors is a man of substantial stature in state politics.
<b>storey</b>  <b>story</b>	<b>Storey</b> is the British spelling of <i>story</i> when this word refers to a floor of a building: The upper storeys of the building comprised apartments. The US spelling of this sense of the word is also <i>story</i> . A <b>story</b> is a tale related in speech or writing by someone. In the US, it is also the spelling used to refer to the floor of a building: My home is three stories high.
<b>straight</b>  <b>strait</b>	<b>Straight</b> is an adjective that means having "no bends or curves: Pimsley's walking cane is as straight as an arrow. A <b>strait</b> is a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water: The Bering Strait lies between Alaska and Siberia.
<b>suit (n)</b>	A set of garments, Example: My husband wore a three-piece <b>suit</b> to our

<b>suite (n)</b>	wedding. A group of rooms occupied as a unit. Example; After our wedding, we went back to the hotel <b>suite</b> to change clothes and open wedding gifts
<b>sundae</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sundae</b> : ice cream with syrup. <b>Sunday</b> : a day of the week.
<b>supposedly</b>	<b>Supposedly</b> means "reputedly" or "likely to be true": Sam is supposedly the greatest waterboy in the football team's history.
<b>supposably</b>	<b>Supposedly</b> means "can be supposed": The best solution to the problem is <b>supposably</b> to ignore it. (However, this word is seldom used.)
<b>WORDS (T) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>taut</b>	<b>Taut</b> is a literary word that means "tight": Hold the string taut while I mark the line.
<b>taught</b>	<b>Taught</b> is the past tense of teach: Kenneth taught etiquette and good manners for several years.
<b>team</b>	<b>Team</b> : a group with the same goal (noun); to form a squad (verb).
<b>teem</b>	<b>Teem</b> : to swarm.
<b>tenant</b>	A <b>tenant</b> is someone who rents property: A new tenant moved into the vacant apartment last week.
<b>tenet</b>	A <b>tenet</b> is a principle: The major tenets of all religions are similar.
<b>than</b>	<b>Than</b> is used to compare: Philippa Byrd thinks she is smarter than any of us.
<b>then</b>	<b>Then is</b> a word to describe a time that is not now: I prefer Friday; it would be better to meet then because then I will be ready.
<b>their</b>	<b>Their</b> is possessive of they: The twins left their books at home.
<b>there</b>	<b>There</b> refers to a place that is not here: We will be there in two hours.
<b>they're</b>	<b>They're</b> is a contraction for they are: They're going to a concert tonight.
<b>themselves</b> <b>themselves</b> <b>themselves</b> <b>themselves</b>	Only <b>themselves</b> is correct as a reflexive or emphatic pronoun: They gave themselves all the credit for the rescue.

<b>threw</b>	Although these two words are pronounced the same, <b>threw</b> is the past tense of the verb <i>throw</i> , meaning "tossed, hurled in the air": Morty threw the keys to the car to McKinley.
<b>through</b>	<b>Through</b> is a preposition meaning "entering the inside of something and coming out the other side": Chuck accidentally threw a rock through Miss Conception's living room window.
<b>throes</b>	<b>Throes</b> are severe pains or difficult times: Wade Rivers found it difficult to listen to his iPod in the throes of battle.
<b>throws</b>	<b>Throws</b> is the plural or present tense of throw: Several throws later, Bud Light managed to put a wad of paper in the trash can from his desk.
<b>to</b>	<b>To</b> is a preposition meaning "toward": We go to the lake every summer. It also serves as the infinitive particle for verbs: I want to stop confusing words.
<b>too</b>	<b>Too</b> means "also": I'd love to go with you, too.
<b>two</b>	<b>Two</b> is the number between one and three: We have two options: hire a divorce lawyer or a mortician.
<b>torpid</b>	<b>Torpid</b> means "unresponsive, lacking alertness": Prunella tried to elicit answers from the torpid students in front of her.
<b>turgid</b>	<b>Turgid</b> means "very ornate and decorative": The author's turgid writing style lost my interest quickly. It can also mean "swollen and bulging": Turgid veins covered her legs.
<b>tort</b>	<b>Tort</b> : a breach of contract.
<b>torte</b>	<b>Torte</b> : a rich cake made with little or no flour.
<b>tortuous</b>	<b>Tortuous</b> means "winding, crooked, with many twists and turns": Wiley Driver was very adept at driving the tortuous mountain roads of western North Carolina.
<b>torturous</b>	<b>Torturous</b> means "very painful, like torture": Mick Stupp found doing math homework torturous.
<b>toward</b>	The Associated Press Stylebook insists on toward, but both are acceptable and mean the same thing.
<b>towards</b>	
<b>WORDS (U - Y) DEFINITIONS &amp; EXAMPLES</b>	
<b>uninterested</b>	<u>See disinterested, uninterested.</u>
<b>disinterested</b>	

<b>vane</b>	A <b>vane</b> is blade that rotates: I don't know how hard the wind blew; it blew the weather vane off the roof.
<b>vain</b>	<b>Vain</b> means "fruitless, hopeless, or without result": Bertie harbors a vain hope of becoming a world-class ice skater.
<b>vein</b>	<b>Vein</b> refers to the tubes that carry blood back to the heart: The veins are usually smaller than the arteries.
<b>venal</b>	<b>Venal</b> means "corruptible, money-grubbing, likely to accept bribes": Chris Cross is a man so venal he charged his mother for taking her to the hospital.
<b>venial</b>	<b>Venial</b> means "easily forgiven": The judge dismissed the venial crimes and focused on the theft of the chocolates.
<b>verses</b>	<b>Verses</b> is plural of verse, a line of poetry: several Emerson's verses were recited that evening.
<b>versus</b>	<b>Versus</b> means "in comparison or opposition to": The benefits of having a cell phone versus not having one depend on the individual.
<b>vial</b>	<b>Vial</b> : a small container.
<b>vile</b>	<b>Vile</b> : evil, depraved.
<b>vicious</b>	<b>Vicious</b> means "cruel and mean": A vicious dog attacked the young boy.
<b>viscous</b>	<b>Viscous</b> means "thick and sticky": Honey and tar are viscous substances.
<b>waist</b>	<b>Waist</b> refers the (often) narrow area of a human body between the hips and ribs: We often wear a belt around our waist.
<b>waste</b>	<b>Waste</b> is garbage, or waste can be a verb meaning "to use carelessly": You shouldn't waste food and you should recycle waste paper.
<b>wait</b>	<b>Wait</b> : to stay; to be available.
<b>weight</b>	<b>Weight</b> : heaviness; significance.
<b>warn</b>	<b>Warn</b> : to notify about trouble.
<b>worn</b>	<b>Worn</b> : carried on the body; deteriorated.
<b>warrantee</b>	<b>Warrantee</b> : a person who is given a written guarantee or a warrant.
<b>warranty</b>	<b>Warranty</b> : a written guarantee.
<b>wary</b>	<b>Wary</b> means "leery and cautious": The customer became wary when the salesperson said he would personally guarantee the TV set for 100 years.
<b>weary</b>	<b>Weary</b> means "tired and worn": After a day of harvesting

	corn, the farmer was very weary.
<b>wave</b>	To <b>wave</b> is to move back and forth; a <b>wave</b> is a swelling in a body of water due to movement: Helen Highwater waved her hand to the boat rocking in the waves.
<b>waive</b>	<b>Waive</b> means "to give up, not require or ask for": Never waive your right to a lawyer.
<b>way</b>	<b>Way</b> : a method; a direction; a manner.
<b>weigh</b>	<b>Weigh</b> : to measure mass; to mull over.
<b>weak</b>	<b>Weak</b> is not strong: Finley gave a weak performance; maybe because he has a weak mind.
<b>week</b>	<b>Week</b> refers to the names of the seven days, from Sunday to Saturday: I go to the ice skating rink once a week.
<b>wear</b>	<b>Wear</b> is a verb (wear, wore, worn) meaning to have clothing on: Maud Lynn Dresser always wears gaudy evening gowns on formal occasions.
<b>ware</b>	<b>Ware</b> is an article of merchandise, a product (usually used in the plural): The potter displayed her wares on a beautiful stand made by her husband.
<b>were</b>	<b>Were</b> is past tense of are: Maud and her fiancé were at the ball last weekend.
<b>we're</b>	<b>We're</b> is a contraction for we are: We're going to the ball this weekend so maybe we'll see them.
<b>weather</b>	<b>Weather</b> has to do with climate: I hope we have beautiful weather for my daughter's wedding.
<b>whether</b>	<b>Whether</b> means "if" and is used only inside sentences: I don't know whether to bring an umbrella or not.
<b>wet</b>	<b>Wet</b> is full of moisture: We had to dry out the wet sleeping bag on our camping trip after a sudden storm.
<b>whet</b>	<b>Whet</b> is to stimulate or arouse: Smelling the stew whetted her appetite.
<b>which</b>	<b>Which</b> means "what particular choice": Which witch put the spell on you?
<b>witch</b>	A <b>witch</b> is a person who believes in or practices magic: Not all witches have warts on their noses (some have them on their chins).
<b>who's</b>	<b>Who's</b> is a contraction for <i>who is</i> : Who's going to vote today?
<b>whose</b>	<b>Whose</b> is the possessive of <i>who</i> meaning "of whom": Whose tickets are these?

<p>wont won't</p>	<p><b>Wont</b> means "used to": Maggie was wont to getting everything her way and cried when she didn't. <b>Won't</b> is a contraction for will not: Maggie won't be getting every toy she wants this Christmas.</p>
<p>yoke yolk</p>	<p><b>Yoke:</b> a harness for oxen. <b>Yolk:</b> the yellow part of an egg.</p>
<p>your you're</p>	<p><b>Your</b> is possessive for you: Your idea is fantastic! <b>You're</b> is a contraction for you are: You're the most treasured person in my life.</p>

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