

### *Easily Confused Words*

<b>all ready</b> [adjective] <i>all prepared</i> Give the signal when you are <i>all ready</i> .	<b>already</b> [adverb] <i>previously</i> I had <i>already</i> read several articles about the customs of the Micmac people of Canada.	
<b>all right</b> [adjective] <i>satisfactory</i> ; [adverb] <i>satisfactorily</i> I did <i>all right</i> on the quiz.	[Although the spelling <i>alright</i> is in some dictionaries, it has not become standard usage.]	
<b>all together</b> [adverb] <i>in unison</i> ; [adjective] <i>in the same place</i> Please sing <i>all together</i> , now. We were <i>all together</i> for the holidays.	<b>altogether</b> [adverb] <i>entirely</i> Her reaction was <i>altogether</i> unexpected.	
<b>altar</b> [noun] <i>a table or stand at which religious rites are performed</i> The priest was standing beside the <i>altar</i> .	<b>alter</b> [verb] <i>to change</i> If we are late, we will <i>alter</i> our plans.	
<b>Ascent</b> [noun] <i>a rise; a climb</i> The climber's ascent was a slow one.	<b>Assent</b> [verb] <i>to agree</i> ; [noun] <i>consent</i> Will they assent to our proposal? Our last proposal won their assent.	
<b>assure</b> [verb] <i>to make certain by removing doubt or suspense; to promise</i> Did she <i>assure</i> you that the problem would be resolved by tomorrow?	<b>ensure</b> [verb] <i>to make certain by protecting; to guarantee</i> Doesn't the First Amendment <i>ensure</i> U.S. citizens the freedom of speech?	
<b>insure</b> [verb] <i>to arrange for monetary payment in case of loss, accident, or death</i> Did you speak to an insurance agent to see what the cost to <i>insure</i> both vehicles would be?		
<b>born</b> [verb, past participle of <i>bear</i> ] <i>given birth</i> Where was Zora Neale Hurston <i>born</i> ?	<b>borne</b> [verb, past participle of <i>bear</i> ] <i>carried; endured</i> The people there have <i>borne</i> many hardships.	
<b>brake</b> [verb] <i>to slow down or stop</i> ; [noun] <i>a device for slowing down or stopping</i> Remember to <i>brake</i> cautiously on wet roads. The report concluded that a defective <i>brake</i> caused the accident.	<b>break</b> [verb] <i>to cause to come apart; to shatter</i> ; [noun] <i>a fracture</i> Try not to <i>break</i> any dishes as you clear the table tonight. The doctor says that the X-ray shows a <i>break</i> in your left fibula.	
<b>capital</b> [adjective or noun; spelling used in all cases except when referring to a building in which a legislature meets] Washington, D.C., has been the <i>capital</i> of the United States since 1791. [ <i>city</i> ] Do you think they have enough <i>capital</i> to start their business? [ <i>wealth</i> ] In most states, first degree murder is a <i>capital</i> offense. [ <i>punishable by death</i> ] That idea is <i>capital</i> . [ <i>of major importance</i> ] Proofread your work to be sure that every sentence begins with a <i>capital</i> letter. [ <i>uppercase</i> ]	<b>capitol</b> [noun] <i>a building in which a legislature meets</i> [capitalized when it refers to a building for a national legislature] The <i>capitol</i> faces a park. On our visit to Washington, D.C., we toured the <i>Capitol</i> .	

<b>choose</b> [verb, rhymes with <i>shoes</i> ] Did you <i>choose</i> the movie for today?	<b>chose</b> [verb, past tense of <i>choose</i> , rhymes with <i>shows</i> ] Who <i>chose</i> the movie yesterday?	
<b>clothes</b> [noun] <i>wearing apparel</i> Should these <i>clothes</i> be dry-cleaned, or can I put them in the washing machine?	<b>cloths</b> [noun] <i>pieces of fabric</i> Use these <i>cloths</i> to dust the furniture.	
<b>coarse</b> [adjective] <i>rough; crude</i> This fabric is as <i>coarse</i> as burlap.	<b>course</b> [noun] <i>path of action; part of a meal; series of studies</i> [also used after <i>of</i> to mean <i>naturally</i> or <i>certainly</i> ] What <i>course</i> should I follow to find a job? Soup was the first <i>course</i> . I am taking a <i>course</i> in creative writing. Of <i>course</i> , I'll help you set the table.	
<b>complement</b> [noun] <i>something that makes whole or complete</i> ; [verb] <i>to make whole or complete</i> The <i>complement</i> of a 50° angle is a 40° angle. [The two angles complete a 90° angle.] Her part of this job <i>complements</i> mine. [Together the parts complete the job.]	<b>compliment</b> [noun] <i>praise; a courteous act or expression</i> ; [verb] <i>to express praise or respect</i> 'Thank you for the <i>compliment</i> . The tennis coach <i>complimented</i> me on my backhand.	
<b>consul</b> [noun] <i>a person appointed by a government to serve its citizens in a foreign country</i> The American <i>consul</i> helped us during our visit.		
<b>council</b> [noun] <i>a group gathered to accomplish a job</i> The <i>council</i> met to vote on the proposal.	<b>counsel</b> [noun] <i>advice</i> ; [verb] <i>to advise</i> I accepted the wise <i>counsel</i> of Ms. Ariyoshi. Ms. Ariyoshi had <i>counseled</i> me to take Algebra II.	
<b>counselor</b> [noun] <i>one who gives advice</i> Ms. Ariyoshi is my guidance <i>counselor</i> .	<b>councilor</b> [noun] <i>a member of a council</i> Did each <i>councilor</i> vote in favor of the proposal?	
<b>desert</b> [verb, pronounced de•sert_] <i>to leave or abandon</i> ; [noun, pronounced des•ert] <i>a dry region</i> She would never <i>desert</i> her friends. Irrigation has brought new life to the <i>desert</i> .	<b>dessert</b> [noun, pronounced des•sert_] <i>the sweet, final course of a meal</i> For <i>dessert</i> we had strawberry yogurt.	
<b>formally</b> [adverb] <i>in a proper or dignified manner, according to strict rules</i> The Nobel Prizes are <i>formally</i> presented on December 10.	<b>formerly</b> [adverb] <i>previously; in the past</i> Katherine Ortega was <i>formerly</i> the U.S. treasurer.	
<b>Ingenious</b> [adjective] <i>clever, resourceful, skillful</i> Carla has an <i>ingenious</i> plan to earn some money this summer.	<b>Ingenuous</b> [adjective] <i>innocent, trusting, frank</i> Ian is as <i>ingenuous</i> as a five-year-old child.	
<b>its</b> [possessive form of <i>it</i> ] <i>belonging to it</i> The community is proud of <i>its</i> school system.	<b>it's</b> [contraction of <i>it is</i> or <i>it has</i> ] <i>It's</i> a symbol of peace. <i>It's</i> been a long time since your last visit.	
<b>later</b> [adjective or adverb] <i>more late</i> We will send the package at a <i>later</i> time. I will help you <i>later</i> .	<b>latter</b> [adjective] <i>the second of two</i> When given the choice of a volleyball or a tennis racket, I chose the <i>latter</i> .	

<p><b>lead</b> [verb, pronounced “leed”] <i>to go first; to guide</i> Who will <i>lead</i> the parade?</p>	<p><b>led</b> [verb, past form of <i>lead</i>] She <i>led</i> the team to victory.</p>	<p><b>lead</b> [noun, pronounced “led”] <i>a heavy metal; graphite in a pencil</i> The alchemist truly believed that he would one day transform <i>lead</i> into gold. I bought new <i>leads</i> for my mechanical pencil.</p>
<p><b>loose</b> [adjective, rhymes with <i>noose</i>] <i>free; not close together; not firmly fastened</i> The <i>loose</i> chickens roamed the barnyard. They stumbled in the <i>loose</i> sand. Some of the shingles on the roof are <i>loose</i>.</p>	<p><b>lose</b> [verb, rhymes with <i>shoes</i>] <i>to suffer loss of</i> When did you <i>lose</i> your books?</p>	
<p><b>miner</b> [noun] <i>a worker in a mine</i> Her father is a coal <i>miner</i>.</p>	<p><b>minor</b> [noun] <i>a person under legal age; [adjective] less important</i> A <i>minor</i> cannot vote in local, state, or federal elections. They raised only <i>minor</i> objections.</p>	
<p><b>moral</b> [adjective] <i>good; virtuous; [noun] a lesson of conduct</i> His conduct throughout the situation showed him to be a <i>moral</i> person. The class understood the <i>moral</i> of the story.</p>	<p><b>morale</b> [noun] <i>spirit; mental condition</i> The victory boosted the team’s <i>morale</i>.</p>	
<p><b>passed</b> [verb, past form of <i>pass</i>] <i>went beyond</i> The red car <i>passed</i> me at the finish line.</p>	<p><b>past</b> [noun] <i>time gone by; [adjective] of a former time; [preposition] beyond</i> To understand the present, you need to study the <i>past</i>. For some people, <i>past</i> events are much more interesting than present ones. After you drive <i>past</i> the shopping mall, turn right at the first traffic light.</p>	
<p><b>peace</b> [noun] <i>calmness (as opposed to war or strife)</i> Doesn’t everyone prefer <i>peace</i> to war?</p>	<p><b>piece</b> [noun] <i>a part of something</i> I fed the dog a boneless <i>piece</i> of turkey as a special treat.</p>	
<p><b>personal</b> [adjective] <i>individual; private</i> The celebrity declined to answer any <i>personal</i> questions.</p>	<p><b>personnel</b> [noun] <i>a group of people employed in the same work or service</i> The <i>personnel</i> of the company ranged in age from sixteen to sixty-four.</p>	
<p><b>plain</b> [adjective] <i>not fancy; clear; [noun] an area of flat land</i> The tourist cabin was small and <i>plain</i> but quite comfortable. Our problem is <i>plain</i> to see. The <i>plain</i> stretched before them for miles.</p>	<p><b>plane</b> [noun] <i>a flat surface; a woodworking tool; an airplane</i> Geometry is the study of imaginary flat surfaces, or <i>planes</i>. The carpenter used a <i>plane</i> to smooth the edge of the board. Waiting for the fog to lift, the <i>plane</i> circled the airport for an hour.</p>	
<p><b>principal</b> [noun] <i>the head of a school; [adjective] main or most important</i> Jorge’s mom, Mrs. Pacheco, is the assistant <i>principal</i> at our school. The <i>principal</i> cause of accidents is carelessness.</p>	<p><b>principle</b> [noun] <i>a rule of conduct; a fact or a general truth</i> The plaintiff accused the defendant of having no <i>principles</i>. We have been studying many of the <i>principles</i> of aerodynamics.</p>	

<b>quiet</b> [adjective] <i>still; silent</i> The library is usually <i>quiet</i> , but it wasn't today.	<b>quite</b> [adverb] <i>completely; rather; very</i> I had <i>quite</i> forgotten her advice. Angela's report on the lifestyle of the Amish was <i>quite</i> interesting.	
<b>Rout</b> [noun] <i>a disorderly flight</i> ; [verb] <i>to put to flight; to defeat overwhelmingly</i> What began as an orderly retreat ended as a <i>rout</i> . The coach predicts that his Bears will rout the Wildcats in the playoffs.	<b>Route</b> [noun] <i>a road; a way to go</i> This highway is the shortest route.	
<b>stationary</b> [adjective] <i>in a fixed position</i> Is that a new <i>stationary</i> bicycle in the gym?	<b>stationery</b> [noun] <i>writing paper</i> I received a box of <i>stationery</i> at Christmas.	
<b>Straight</b> [adjective] <i>not crooked or curved; direct</i> Draw a <i>straight</i> line that connects points A and B.	<b>Strait</b> [noun] <i>channel connecting two large bodies of water</i> ; [noun, usually plural] <i>difficulty; distress</i> The <i>Strait</i> of Gibraltar links the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. His family helps him when he is in bad <i>straits</i> .	
<b>than</b> [conjunction used for comparisons] Jupiter is larger <i>than</i> any other planet in our solar system.	<b>then</b> [adverb] <i>at that time; next</i> First, make an outline; <i>then</i> , write the composition according to the outline.	
<b>Their</b> [possessive form of <i>they</i> ] <i>belonging to them</i> ( <b>Theirs is the possessive form of pronoun they</b> ) The performers made <i>their</i> own costumes. The fence separates our property from <i>theirs</i> .	<b>there</b> [adverb] <i>at that place</i> ; [expletive used to begin a sentence] ( <b>There's is the contraction of there is or there has</b> ) We were <i>there</i> at two o'clock. <i>There</i> were four of us in the final round of competition. <i>There's</i> one other way to solve the problem. <i>There's</i> been a change in the softball team's starting lineup.	<b>they're</b> [contraction of <i>they are</i> ] <i>They're</i> going with us to the jazz festival.
<b>to</b> [preposition; part of the infinitive form of a verb] Are you going <i>to</i> Puerto Rico this summer? My father showed me how <i>to</i> prepare sushi.	<b>too</b> [adverb] <i>also; more than enough</i> Lamont is a senior, <i>too</i> . It is <i>too</i> late to go now.	<b>two</b> [adjective] <i>totaling one plus one</i> ; [noun] <i>the number between one and three</i> We had only <i>two</i> dollars. <i>Two</i> of my favorite singers are Whitney Houston and Sheryl Crow.
<b>waist</b> [noun] <i>the midsection of the body</i> She wore a colorful obi around her <i>waist</i> .	<b>waste</b> [noun] <i>unused material</i> ; [verb] <i>to squander</i> Pollution can be caused by industrial <i>wastes</i> . Don't <i>waste</i> your time.	
<b>Weather</b> [noun] <i>atmospheric conditions</i> We had a good <i>weather</i> for the picnic.	<b>Whether</b> [conjunction indicating an alternative or doubt] I don't know <i>whether</i> Denzel will help us.	
<b>who's</b> [contraction of <i>who is</i> or <i>who has</i> ] <i>Who's</i> in charge of the recycling program? <i>Who's</i> been using my computer?	<b>whose</b> [possessive form of <i>who</i> ] <i>belonging to whom</i> <i>Whose</i> castanets are these?	
<b>your</b> [possessive form of <i>you</i> ] <i>belonging to you</i> Wasn't that <i>your</i> cue?	<b>you're</b> [contraction of <i>you are</i> ] <i>You're</i> a true friend.	