

Commonly Misused Words

accept / except

- ❖ accept (verb) meaning to take/ receive: "Will you accept this advice?"
- ❖ except (preposition) meaning not including; other than: "Everyone was invited except me."

advise / advice

- ❖ advise: (verb) "Will you advise me on this subject?"
- ❖ advice: (noun) "Accept this advice."

affect / effect

- ❖ affect (verb) meaning to influence: "The weather will affect our weekend plans."
- ❖ effect (noun): "What were the effects of the last tax bill?"

already / all ready

- ❖ already (adverb): "I am already late."
- ❖ all ready: meaning completely; all prepared: "The girls are all ready to go."

among / between

- ❖ among: use when referring to more than two people or things
- ❖ between: use when referring to only two people or things

amount / number

- ❖ amount: use when referring to things which cannot be counted
- ❖ number: use when referring to things which can be counted

are/our/hour

- ❖ "are" (verb-sounds like "our." "The children are sleeping.")
- ❖ "our" (pronoun-sounds like "are." "Roxy is our dog.")
- ❖ hour: (noun) "It takes an hour to get home."

awhile / a while

- ❖ awhile: (adverb) "Wait awhile."
- ❖ a while: (noun: use following "for" or "in") "He said he'd be here in a while."

cite/sight/site

- ❖ cite (verb): "Make sure you cite all of your sources."
- ❖ sight (noun): "His sight is blurry in one eye."
- ❖ site (noun): "The website is now working." Or, "I left my phone at the job site."

desert / dessert

- ❖ desert (noun): "Camels usually live in the desert."
- ❖ desert (verb): "Don't desert me now when I need you."
- ❖ dessert (noun): "My favorite dessert is cheesecake."

farther / further

- ❖ farther: use when referring to physical distance that can be measured
- ❖ further: refers to nonphysical distance

few / less

- ❖ few: not many (used with count nouns)
- ❖ less: smaller in size, extent, degree (used with non-count nouns)

its / it's

- ❖ its (possessive pronoun): "The dog wags its tail."
- ❖ it's (contraction for "it is"): "It's been my pleasure working for you."

lie / lay

- ❖ lie (verb-to recline or rest): "Did you lie down all day?"
- ❖ lay (verb-to put something down or to place it somewhere): "Lay the mail on the table. *Note: use "lie" with things that can get up on their own*

sit / set

- ❖ sit (verb-to sit down): "Where will we sit?"
- ❖ set (verb-to put in a specified place): "Set the book over there."

than / then

- ❖ than (adverb used for comparison): "I am smarter than a dog."
- ❖ then (adverb indicating time): "After I graduate, I will then get a job."

their / there / they're

- ❖ their (possessive pronoun): "Is this their house?"
- ❖ there (preposition): "Stand over there."
- ❖ they're (contraction for "they are"): "They're going to the lake."

through/threw/thru

- ❖ through (preposition): "I walked through the fire."
- ❖ threw (verb): Marty threw the ball to me."
- ❖ thru : "Drive-thru or text talk"

to / two / too

- ❖ to (preposition) "Go to the store."
- ❖ two (number two)
- ❖ too (adverb meaning "also; as well; excessively"): "My writing suffers from too much neglect." "Do you want to improve too?"

who's / whose

- ❖ who's (contraction for "who is"): "Who's going with me?"
- ❖ whose (possessive pronoun): "Whose book is this?"

would of/ could of

- ❖ would've (contraction for "would have"): "I would've come to your party."
- ❖ could've (contraction for "could have"): "You could've tried harder."

you're / your

- ❖ you're (contraction for "you are"): "You're in my way!"
- ❖ your (possessive pronoun): "Your eyes are beautiful."

Commonly Misspelled Words

absence accommodate achieve acquire across	address advertise advice among apparent	argument athlete awful balance basically
becoming before beginning believe benefit	breathe brilliant business calendar careful	category ceiling cemetery certain chief
citizen coming competition convenience criticize	decide definite deposit describe desperate	develop difference dilemma disappear disappoint
discipline does during easily eight	either embarrass environment equipped exaggerate	excellent except exercise existence expect
experience experiment explanation familiar fascinating	finally foreign forty forward friend	fundamental generally government grammar guarantee
guidance happiness heroes humorous identity	imaginary imitation immediately incidentally independent	intelligent interesting interfere interpretation interruption
invitation irrelevant irritable island jealous	judgment knowledge laboratory length lesson	library license loneliness losing lying
marriage mathematics medicine miniature minute	mysterious naturally necessary neighbor neither	noticeable occasion occurred official often

omission operate optimism original ought	paid parallel particularly peculiar perceive	perform permanent persevere personally persuade
picture piece planning pleasant political	possess possible practical prefer prejudice	presence privilege probably professional promise
proof psychology quantity quarter quiet	quit quite realize receive recognize	recommend reference religious repetition restaurant
rhythm ridiculous sacrifice safety scissors	secretary separate shining similar sincerely	soldier speech stopping strength studying
succeed successful surely surprise temperature	temporary through through toward tries	truly twelfth until unusual using
usually vault vein village weird	welcome whether white writing wrong	yacht yawn yearn zealous zest