

# Commonly Confused Words



Most commonly confused words are homonyms— words that are similar in sound, but different in their meaning and spelling. A dictionary is the best way to make sure you are using the correct word. Keep in mind that this list is not exhaustive; there are multiple meanings for some of these words.

**A** ccept (verb) - to agree to receive or do

**E** xcept (preposition) - not including

**A** ffect (verb) - to influence

**E** ffect (noun) - result; to accomplish

**A** llusion (noun) - an indirect reference

**I** llusion (noun) - a false perception of reality

**A** ll together (phrase) - gathered; all in one place

**A** l together (adverb) - completely; on the whole

**B** are (adjective) - naked; to uncover

**B** ear (verb) - to carry; to put up with

**B** orn (verb)



Council (noun) - a group who manage or advise

Counsel (verb) - to advise

Discreet (adjective) - careful not to attract attention

Discrete (adjective) - separate and distinct

Dual (adjective) - having two parts

Duel (noun) - a fight or contest between two people

Ensure (verb) - to make sure that something happens

Insure (verb) - to provide compensation if a person dies or property is damaged

Envelop (verb) - to cover or surround

Envelope (noun) - a paper container for a letter

Fawn (noun) - a young deer; light brown

Faun (noun) - a mythical being; part man, part goat

Foreword (noun) - an introduction to a book

Forward (adverb) - onwards, ahead

Lay (verb) - to put an object down

Lie (verb) - to lie down (a person or animal)

Loath (adjective) - reluctant, unwilling

Loathe (verb) - to hate

Loose (verb) - to unfasten; to set free

Lose (verb) - to be deprived of; to be unable to find

Passed (verb) - past tense of to pass to have moved

Past (adjective/noun) - belonging to a former time or place

Pour (verb) - to flow or cause to flow

Pore (noun/verb) - a tiny opening; to study something closely



Prescribe (verb) - to authorize use of medicine; to order authoritatively

Proscribe (verb) - to officially forbid something

Principal (noun) - most important; the head of a school

Principle (noun) - a fundamental rule or belief

Stationary (adjective) - not moving

Stationery (noun) - writing materials

Than (conjunction/preposition) - use with comparisons

Then (adverb) - at that time; next

Their (determiner) - possessive form of they

There (adverb) - indicates location

They're (contraction) - contraction for "they are"

Who (pronoun) - used as a subject or as a subject complement

Whom (pronoun) - used as an object

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