

Battle of the

COMMONLY

MISSPELLED

or

MISUSED

WORDS



ACCEPT VS EXCEPT

(verb) to receive

I **accepted** all my birthday gifts with gratitude.

(conjunction) apart from; otherwise than; were it not true

When Susan travels, she packs everything **except** the kitchen sink.

AFFECT

(verb) to have an effect on; influence; produce a change in; to stir the emotions
The dog's death **affected** his owners.

EFFECT

(noun) anything brought about by a cause or agent; result
The new speed limit law had little **effect** on the speed of the motorists.

A LOT

**"A lot" is always two separate words. "Alot" is not a real word.

(noun phrase) many

A lot of people came to the party.*

ALLOT

(verb) to distribute, give or assign

Fifteen minutes were **allotted** to each of the speakers at the conference.

ALLUSION

(noun) an indirect reference

The Austin Powers movies often make **allusions** to the James Bond films.

ILLUSION

(noun) a false idea or conception; belief or opinion not in accord with the facts; an unreal, deceptive, or misleading appearance or image
The magician created the **illusion** that he was levitating.

AWHILE

(adverb) for a while; for a short time
The guests planned to stay **awhile**.

A WHILE

(noun) for a short time; when while is used as the object of the preposition (for a while) then the "a" is separated from the "while"
The guests planned to stay for **a while**.

BORROW

(verb) to take or accept something for a short time with the intention of returning it to its rightful owner
May I **borrow** a pencil, please?

LEND

(verb) to give something for a short time with the intention of getting it back
Would you please **lend** me a pencil?

CACHE

(noun) a safe place to store supplies; anything stored or hidden in such a place
The hikers found a **cache** with some cash and jewels.

CASH

(noun) money, coins, bills; currency
ATM machines dispense **cash**.

DESERT

(verb) to forsake or abandon; to leave without permission; to fail when needed
Soldiers should not **desert** their posts

(noun) dry, barren, sandy region

The hottest **desert** in the world is the Sahara.

DESSERT

(noun) a sweet course served at the end of a meal
Fruit makes a healthy **dessert** after lunch or dinner.

IT'S

(contraction) of it + is

It's a very strange dog.

ITS

(possessive pronoun) of, belonging to, made by, or done by it

The dog will only eat **its** food when I am also eating.

LOOSE

(adjective) not tight; giving enough room

I've lost twenty pounds, and now these jeans are really **loose**.

LOSE

(verb) to become unable to find; to mislay; to fail to win or gain

Did you **lose** your glasses again?
How many games did your team **lose** last season?

PRINCIPAL

(noun) a governing or presiding officer, specifically of a school;
(adjective) first in rank, authority, importance, degree, etc.

The student's parents had to have a meeting with the **principal**.

PRINCIPLE

(noun) a fundamental truth, law, doctrine, or motivating force, upon which others are based

The student's parents instilled moral **principles** in their son.

STATIONARY

(adjective) not moving or not movable; fixed or still
I rode the **stationary** bike at the gym for an hour.

STATIONERY

(noun) writing materials; specifically, paper and envelopes used for letters
My grandmother has given me a lot of **stationery** over the years.
I think she wants me to use it to write her.

THEIR

(adjective) of, belonging to, made by, or done by them

They were proud of **their** work.

THERE

(noun) that place or point

Just put it over **there**.

THEY'RE

(contraction) of they + are

They're going out to dinner tonight.

TO

(preposition) in the direction of and reaching; as far as; to the extent of
I'm going **to** Baltimore.

TOO

(adverb) in addition; as well; besides; also; more than enough; superfluously; overly; to a regrettable extent; extremely
I'm going to Baltimore, **too**. He's **too** busy. He can't go to Baltimore.

TWO

(adjective) the number 2
I have **two** jobs.

WHICH

(pronoun) a particular one or ones of those mentioned or implied
Use **which** before a non-restrictive clause
(words you can change without changing the meaning of the sentence)
Grammar, **which** can be confusing, is key to learning English.

THAT

(pronoun) something indicated
Use **that** before a restrictive clause
(words you can't change without changing the meaning of the sentence)
There is a question mark **that** clarifies the meaning.