

Commonly Misused and Misspelled Words

Homophones are words that sound similar yet have different meanings, like *accept* and *except*. Because they sound similar, homophones are frequently confused. The writer might write “I except your invitation” when she really means “I accept your invitation.”

The following list includes the correct meanings and uses for commonly confused word groups. For more information on homophones and other commonly misspelled words, consult http://owl.english.purdue.edu/engagement/index.php?category_id=2&sub_category_id=1&article_id=48

Homophones	Meanings
accept except	to receive or take but; excluding
ad add aid	Advertisement; flyer to calculate; enhance to assist
advice advise	guidance; suggestion (noun) to guide or suggest (verb)
allusion illusion	reference imaginary
affect effect	to impact (verb); emotion (noun) to bring about (verb); result (noun)
affectively effectively	emotionally successfully; efficiently
altar alter	table or platform for worship change
capital capitol	monetary wealth; resources; city building
complement compliment	match flatter
confidant confident	trusted friend certain
conscience conscious	moral values awake; aware
continually continuously	frequently; repeatedly ceaselessly (without stopping)
council counsel	group of leaders guidance (noun); to guide (verb)
defiantly definitely	Insolently Certainly
desert dessert	leave (verb); arid landscape (noun) sweet treat
ensure insure	confirm cover; protect
fair	reasonable; festival

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fare	fees
farther further	to travel more to expand; continue
half halve	fifty percent (noun) to cut in two (verb)
hear here	listen place; immediate
its it's	possessive pronoun contraction of "it is"
lead led	to take charge; metal past tense of "lead"
lie lye	falsify cleaning substance
meat meet	animal flesh greet; confer; gather
peace piece	calm; serenity section; part
peak peek perique	top glance arouse
personal personnel	pertaining to oneself workers
precede proceed	to come before progress; move forward
principal principle	leading; primary value; norm
right write	correct; direction compose; draft
scene seen	staged event; picture viewed
sever severe	cut harsh; extreme
their there they're	plural possessive place contraction of "they are"
than then	comparison time; sequence; condition (if/then)
to too two	preposition much; also pair
vary very	differ much; quite
wary weary	cautious tired
waist waste	middle; midriff garbage
weather	climate

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whether	condition
wear	to put on clothing
where	place
we're	contraction of "we are"
were	plural version of "was"
who	subject version of "who"
whom	object version of "who"
which	a dependent word used for non-restrictive modifiers (that)
witch	a scary creature that flies around on a broom
wood	lumber
would	modal showing condition (will)

Misspelled Words

The list below consists of words first-year Saint Francis University students identified as words that they commonly misspell. The incorrect spelling is listed first.

Abreviate, abbreviate	Incredible, incredible
Abscence, absence	Inevetable, inevitable
Abundance, abundance	Intelligence, intelligence
Acceptence, acceptance	Invigerate, invigorate
Acceptible, acceptable	Irresistible, irresistible
Accesible, accessible	Judgement, judgment
Accidental, accidentally	Knowledg, knowledge
Accomodate, accommodate	Legitmate, legitimate
Acheive, achieve	Liason, liaison
Acknowledge, acknowledge	Licence, license
Acqit, acquit	Liesure, leisure
Alot, a lot	Lightning, lightening
Alright, all right	Lonleist, loneliest
Announcment, announcement	Luitenant, lieutenant
Apparant, apparent	Maintanence, maintenance
Appearence, appearance	Manuever, maneuver
Appetite, appetite	Medeval, medieval
Apprecated, appreciated	Millenium, millennium
Aquaintence, acquaintance	Miniscule, minuscule
Auxillary, auxiliary	Miniture, miniature
Becomeing, becoming	Mischevous, mischievous
Begining, beginning	Motiveton, motivation
Beleave, believe	Noticable, noticeable
Camouflage, camouflage	Nuetral, neutral
Canot, cannot	Obediant, obedient
Cheque, check	Ocassionally, occasionally
Colour, color	Ocurred, occurred
Comitment, commitment	Orgin, origin
Comitted, committed,	Overwelmed, overwhelmed

Comittee, committee	Pchycology, psychology
Complety, completely	Percieve, perceive
Conciensious, conscientious	Pnuemonia, pneumonia
Concieve, conceive	Poseession, possession
Consince, conscience	Possiblity, possibility
Consistant, consistent	Practicly, practically
Constent, constant	Predjudice, prejudice
Contagous, contagious	Presence, presence
Convenient, convenient	Privalege, privilege
Decieve, deceive	Quanity, quantity
Decisions, decisions	Realise, realize
Definatly, defiantly	Reccomend, recommend
Definit, definite	Reccomendation, recommendation
Democrate, democrat	Reciept, receipt
Destany, destiny	Recieve, receive
Developement, development	Recieving, receiving
Dicsapline, discipline	Refference, reference
Dissapear, disappear	Replinish, replenish
Distroy, destroy	Resimble, resemble
Drunkenness, drunkenness	Responsiblelity, responsibility
Embarass, embarrass	Ridicilous, ridiculous
Embarassment, embarrassment	Rythm, rhythm
Emphesize, emphasize	Sence, since
Enjoiable, enjoyable	Seperate, separate
Exclamitory, exclamatory	Seperately , separately
Expedenture, expenditure	Shedule, schedule
Experement, experiment	Significantly, significantly
Experence, experience	Socology, sociology
Explanation, explanation	Soldeir, soldier
Exsaperating, exasperating	Speciality, specialty
Fasinating, fascinating	Suprise, surprise
Favour, favor	Temperture, temperature
Ferocous, ferocious	Therefour, therefore
Firey, fiery	Threshhold, threshold
Flavour, flavor	Thoughtout, throughout
Foriegn, foreign	Tommorrow, tomorrow
Frightend, frightened	Tradegy, tragedy
Fullfill, fulfill	Truely, truly
Garenteed, guaranteed	Unecessary, unnecessary
Georgous, gorgeous	Unfortuneatly, unfortunately
Hieght, height	Untill, until
Hoarce, hoarse	Useable, usable
Horendous, horrendous	Usualy, usually
Horific, horrific	Valgar, vulgar
Horified, horrified	Vaccum, vacuum
Idiosyncronisy, idiosyncrasy	Wenseday, Wednesday
Immedate, immediate	Wierd, weird

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Immediatly, immediately Immitation, imitation Inconvience, inconvenience	
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