



ONLINE
7.1

Commonly Confused Words

Words	Meaning	Example
accept	agree to or willingly receive	Frank accepted the award.
except	not including	All the painters except June were finished.
affect	to influence	The quiz grade affected Sam's GPA.
effect	the result of an action	The medicine had a great effect on my performance.
alot	not a word	<i>Never use.</i>
a lot	always two words	The fish ate a lot of food.
beside	at the side of	She sat beside me in class.
besides	in addition to	There are other card games besides poker.
borrow	receive on loan	May I borrow your pen?
lend	give out temporarily	I will lend you my badge.
bring	move toward or with	I'll bring your newspaper over.
take	move away from	Take your trash to the dump.
capital	wealth or resources	The interest on your capital will support you.
capitol	building where lawmakers meet	We met on the steps of the Capitol.
disinterested	impartial	Members of the board should be disinterested when they make policy decisions.
uninterested	indifferent	Many people are uninterested in classical music.
elicit	to draw out	Torture usually elicits answers.
illicit	unlawful	The detective watched for illicit activity.
farther	more distant	The road went farther than I realized.
further	additional	The scientist needs to do further investigation.
former	first of two things mentioned previously	Alex and Chris are both good skiers; the former in downhill and the latter in slalom.
latter	second of two things mentioned previously	
imply	suggest without stating directly	Are you implying that John is lazy?
infer	draw a conclusion from evidence	When you gave away your ticket, I inferred that you didn't want to go to the concert.
it's	contraction for <i>it is</i>	It's a beautiful day.
its	possessive form of <i>it</i>	The team played its top rival.

(Continues)

Words	Meaning	Example
lay	to place	Susan will lay your book on the table.
lie	rest in a flat position	The cat likes to lie in the sun.
loose	not securely attached	The loose door hinge squeaked.
lose	to misplace	Be careful not to lose your ring down the drain.
moral	lesson about standards or nature of life	Here's the moral of the story.
morale	attitude or mental condition	After winning the championship, the team's morale soared.
precede	come before	The king precedes his subjects.
proceed	go forward	Now we'll proceed into the dining room.
principal	most important or head of an organization	The principal of the high school suspended everyone involved in the demonstration.
principle	basic standard	Coach Evans believes in the principle of fair play.
raise	to lift or make something go up	Raise your hand if you plan to attend.
rise	to go upward	My bread rises in three hours.
real	actual or true	Mary's real motive was envy.
really	in reality or in fact	Will the train really come?
set	to place	Set your suitcase over there.
sit	to occupy a seat or specific place	Let's sit together on the plane.
stationary	standing still	Stationary bicycles are good for exercise.
stationery	writing paper	There's stationery in my desk.
than	introduces second part of a comparison	June is older than Frank.
then	next in order	Eat your lunch and then we'll go to the movie.
their	possessive pronoun	They gave the guard their passes.
there	adverb of place	John is standing over there.
they're	contraction of <i>they are</i>	They're our new neighbors.