

SPELLING EASILY CONFUSED WORDS

Homophones are words that are pronounced alike but that have different spellings and meanings, such as **course** and **coarse**. The following list consists of homophones and other pairs of words that are frequently misused.

n. = noun	pro. = pronoun	contr. = contraction	conj. = conjunction
v. = verb	adj. = adjective	prep. = preposition	poss. = possessive
adv. = adverb	pl. = plural	sing. = singular	

accept:	(v.) to receive
except:	(prep.) not included
access:	(n.) a way of approach or entrance
access:	(v.) to gain entrance
assess:	(v.) to estimate the value of
adapt:	(v.) to adjust to a situation
adopt:	(v.) to take in or take a course of action
advice:	(n.) counsel, information, or suggestions given
advise:	(v.) to give advice
affect:	(v.) to influence or have an effect on (most common use)
affect:	(n.) <i>emotional status (a specialized use in psychology)</i>
effect:	(n.) the result of an action (most common use)
effect:	(v.) <i>to accomplish or execute</i>
aisle:	(n.) a corridor or passageway
I'll:	(contr.) I will
isle:	(n.) an island
all ready:	(n. + adj.) everyone/everything is prepared
already:	(adv.) at or before this time; previously
all right:	(n + adj) everything is okay
alright:	NOT AN ACCEPTED WORD
all together:	(n. + adj.) all in one place
altogether:	(adv.) completely, wholly
allude:	(v.) to refer to
elude:	(v.) to evade or escape
allusion:	(n.) a reference
illusion:	(n.) a false impression

aloud:	(adv.) audibly or loudly
allowed:	(v.) permitted
altar:	(n.) an elevated place for religious services
alter:	(v.) to change
always:	(adv.) constantly; all the time
all ways:	(adj. + n.) in every way
anecdote:	(n.) a little story
antidote:	(n.) something that counteracts poison
angel:	(n.) a heavenly being
angle:	(n.) a figure formed by the divergence of two straight lines from one point
arc:	(n.) a part of a circle
arch:	(n.) a curved part of a building
ascend:	(v.) to rise, climb, or go up
ascent:	(n.) a movement upward
assent:	(n.) agreement
assent:	(v.) to agree
assistance:	(n.) help given
assistants:	(n. pl.) helpers
band:	(n.) a group; a belt
band:	(v.) to form into a group
banned:	(v.) excluded or prohibited
bare:	(adj) uncovered, naked
bare:	(v.) to make naked, to expose
bear:	(v.) to carry, endure, support
bear:	(n.) large, furry mammal
beside:	(prep.) by the side of
besides:	(adv. and prep.) in addition to
boar:	(n.) a male hog
bore:	(v.) to drill into; to mentally tire someone
bore:	(n.) someone who is mentally tiring
boarder:	(n.) one who pays for room and meals
border:	(n.) a boundary
born:	(v.) given birth to (always in the passive voice)
borne:	(v.) carried, supported (always in the passive voice)
brake:	(n.) a mechanism to stop a vehicle
break:	(v.) to cause to fall into two or more pieces
breath:	(n.) air inhaled and exhaled
breathe:	(v.) to inhale and exhale

cavalry:	(n.) a military company on horseback.
Calvary:	(n.) the biblical hill on which Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.
canvas:	(n.) a kind of coarse cloth
canvass:	(v.) to search or survey
capital:	(n.) wealth, assets for investment
capital:	(n.) a city that is a seat of government; stock
capital:	(adj.) excellent, top or foremost; punishable by death
capitol:	(n.) a building occupied by a legislature
censer:	(n.) a container for burning incense
ensor:	(v.) to prohibit publication
ensor:	(n.) one who prohibits publication
ensure:	(v.) to reprimand or disapprove of
ensure:	(n.) disapproval
choose:	(v.) to select (present tense)
chose:	(v.) selected (past tense)
chosen:	(v.) selected (past participle)
cite:	(v.) to quote; to charge with breaking a law
sight:	(n.) something seen; the sense of seeing; a device for aiming a weapon
sight:	(v.) to look at or aim at
site:	(n.) a location
coarse:	(adj.) rough; undefined
course:	(n.) school subject; path or way
complement:	(n.) items which complete
complement:	(v.) to complete
compliment:	(n.) a statement of praise
compliment:	(v.) to praise
conscience:	(n.) what tells you right from wrong
conscious:	(adj.) awake or alert
council:	(n.) a group that deliberates
counsel:	(v.) to advise
counsel:	(n.) advice given
councillor:	(n.) one who is a member of a council
counselor:	(n.) one who gives advice
descend:	(v.) to move downward
descent:	(n.) a going down
dissent:	(v.) to disagree
dissent:	(n.) disagreement

desert:	(n.) a geographical area
desert:	(v.) to abandon
dessert:	(n.) food, usually sweet
device:	(n.) a contrivance
devise:	(v.) to prepare a method or contrivance
do:	(v.) to perform
due:	(adj.) used with <i>to</i> to specify the cause of some thing; owing
dual:	(adj.) twofold
duel:	(n.) a fight between two people
elicit:	(v.) to bring out, usually a response
illicit:	(n.) not allowed
eminent:	(adj.) famous
imminent:	(adj.) likely to occur soon
envelop:	(v.) to cover or enclose
envelope:	(n.) an enclosure used for mailing
extant:	(adj.) still existing
extent:	(n.) the degree of something
formally:	(adv.) in a formal manner
formerly:	(adv.) at an earlier time
forth:	(adv., prep.) forward; onward; out
fourth:	(n.; adj.) the one after the third
human:	(adj.) pertaining to people
humane:	(adj.) pertaining to compassion or kindness
its:	(poss. pro.) belonging to it
it's:	(contr.) it is; it has
later:	(adj.) after a specified time
latter:	(n.) the last one mentioned
lead:	(v.; pronounced <u>leed</u>) to conduct
lead:	(n.; pronounced <u>led</u>) the metal
led:	(v.) past tense and past participle of <u>lead</u>
loose:	(adj.) not tight
loose:	(v.) to release
lose:	(v.) to misplace; to be defeated
marital:	(adj.) pertaining to marriage
martial:	(adj.) pertaining to war
maybe:	(adv.) perhaps

may be:	(v.) possibly may occur
meant:	(v.) past tense and past participle of <u>mean</u>
ment:	NOT A WORD
passed:	(v.) past tense and past participle of <u>pass</u>
past:	(n.) an earlier time
patience:	(n. sing.) calm endurance
patients:	(n. pl.) those under medical care
peace:	(n.) not war
piece:	(n.) a portion
personal:	(adj) pertaining to oneself
personnel:	(n.) the employees of a company or organization
principal:	(n.) head of a school; money owned
principal:	(adj.) chief; most important
principle:	(n.) a rule or doctrine
prophecy:	(n.) a prediction
prophecy:	(v.) to make a prediction
quiet:	(adj.) not noisy
quite:	(adv.) completely
right:	(adj.) correct, not left
write:	(v.) to inscribe
sense:	(n.) ability to think well; meaning; perception
sense:	(v.) to perceive
since:	(prep. and conj.) from that time until now; because
stationary:	(adj.) in a fixed position
stationery:	(n.) paper to write on
than:	(conj.) used to compare things
then:	(adv.) indicating time
their:	(poss. pro.) belonging to them
there:	(adv.) in that place; also used as an expletive to begin sentences
they're:	(contr.) they are
to:	(prep.) generally indicating direction
too:	(adv.) excessively; also
two:	(n. and adj.) the number

trail: (n.) a rough path
trial: (n.) experimental action; examination before a court
trial: (adj.) experimental

vice: (n.) immorality
vise: (n.) a device for holding

weather: (n.) the state of the atmosphere
whether: (conj.) expressing alternatives

whose: (poss. pro.) belonging to whom
who's: (contr.) who is; who has

your: (poss. pro) belonging to you
you're: (contr.) you are

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