

# 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	

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

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

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

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

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