

Troublesome Words

ACCEPT	EXCEPT	
To take or agree. "She accepted the gift."	Something different. "Everyone except John went to the party."	
AFFECT	EFFECT	
To change something. "The weather affects her sinuses."	The result. "The effect of the weather is sinus congestion."	
A LOT	ALLOT	
Means "many or to a great extent." "She talks a lot ."	To distribute between or among. "We were allotted one desk each."	
AWHILE	A WHILE	
An adverb meaning a short time or period. (Never follows a preposition.) "I might be gone awhile ."	A two-word noun (usually follows preposition) meaning an interval of time. "He said he would be home in a while ."	
ALLUSION	ILLUSION	
A passing reference or indirect mention. "She made an allusion to his criminal past."	Something that deceives or creates a false impression. "They have the illusion that I'm wealthy."	
BUY	BYE	BY
To purchase. "Could you buy me lunch?"	Shortening of "goodbye." "I have to leave, bye! "	Next to or signifies the person who performed an action. "He sat by the fountain." "Written by George Smith."
CACHE	CASH	
Refers to a hiding place. "He will never find my cache of treasure."	Money in the form of coins or physical notes. "I have no cash left in my wallet."	
CITE	SITE	SIGHT
To refer to or name someone or something. "She cited the rules."	Noun meaning place or location. "The construction site ..."	What is seen. "The accident was a terrible sight ."
DESERT	DESSERT	
Dry land with little or no vegetation. "Walking through the desert made her thirsty." Also a verb meaning to leave someone who counts on you behind. "He deserted his girlfriend in the restaurant."	A sweet treat after a meal. My favorite dessert is ice cream with chocolate syrup on top."	
ITS	IT'S	
Shows possession. "The cat licked its paw."	Contraction of "it is." "It's a good day."	

KNOW	NO	
To have knowledge or understanding. "I know how to speak Spanish."	Indicates negation or something that's not true. "Tom is no liar."	
LOOSE	LOSE	
Not tight. "If your pants are too loose , you'll lose them."	To fail to win, to misplace, or to free oneself from something or someone. "I always lose my glasses."	
PRINCIPAL	PRINCIPLE	
Headmaster of a school or a person who's in charge of certain things in a company. Also indicates original, first, or "most important." "The principal is your pal."	A rule, a law, a guideline, or a fact. "The principal is a woman of principle." "All internal combustion engines work on the same principles ."	
STATIONARY	STATIONERY	
Not moving, fixed in one place, still. "Almost every big gym has a row of stationary bikes."	Paper used for writing notes, letters, etc. "Use the nice stationery to write to your mother."	
THAN	THEN	
Used for comparison. "He likes apples more than grapes."	Refers to sequence in time. "He went to the store, then to the gym."	
THEIR	THERE	THEY'RE
Tells who owns something. "They forgot their coats."	Refers to a place. "Put it over there ."	Contraction for "they are." " They're going to the store."
TO	TOO	TWO
Shows direction. "We went to the mall."	Means also, as well, or additionally. "He went to the store, too ."	The number 2. "They bought two apples."
WHICH	THAT	
Use "which" when describing the item. "The bike, which has a broken seat, is in the garage." (Only describing one bike.)	Use "that" when defining the item. "The bike that has a broken seat is in the garage." (Indicates more than one bike.)	
WHERE	WERE	
Location. "Where do you want to go?"	Past tense of "are." "We were on our way to the store."	
WHOSE	WHO'S	
Refers to ownership. " Whose bike is this?"	Contraction for "who is." " Who's the owner of the bike?"	

