

Tip #20 Confusing Words

<i>Word 1</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Word 2</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>ability</i>	power to do something, physical or mental	<i>capacity</i>	ability to hold ,contain, or absorb
<i>accept</i>	to agree with, to receive	<i>except</i>	not including, other than
<i>adverse</i>	unfavorable, harmful	<i>averse</i>	strongly disliking; opposed
<i>advice</i>	recommendations about what to do	<i>advise</i>	to recommend something
<i>affect</i>	to change or make a difference, to influence	<i>effect</i>	a result; to bring about a result (to cause)
<i>all ready</i>	prepared: all are ready	<i>already</i>	prior to some designated time; earlier, previously
<i>all right</i>	satisfactory (colloquial: avoid using)	<i>alright</i>	altogether, already (colloquial: avoid using)
<i>all together</i>	all in one place, all at once	<i>altogether</i>	completely; wholly
<i>almost</i>	very nearly, all but	<i>most</i>	greatest in amount, quality, or degree
<i>amount</i>	things of a unified mass: bulk, weight, or sums	<i>number</i>	things that can be counted in individual units
<i>appraise</i>	to assess	<i>apprise</i>	to inform someone
<i>apt</i>	suggest fitness or tendency	<i>liable</i>	implies exposure to something burdensome or disadvantageous
<i>assent</i>	agreement, approval	<i>ascent</i>	the action of rising or climbing up
<i>aural</i>	relating to the ears or hearing	<i>oral</i>	relating to the mouth; spoken
<i>balance</i>	(avoid using to mean "remainder")	<i>remainder</i>	what is left over at the end
<i>be going to + Verb</i>	changeable intention: weaker form	<i>will + Verb</i>	in principle, an "unchangeable" intention; therefore, a promise; stronger form
<i>beside</i>	next to; by the side of	<i>besides</i>	in addition to, moreover

<i>between</i>	relationship of two items	<i>among</i>	relationships of three or more items
<i>can</i>	ability, power (physical and mental)	<i>may</i>	permission, possibility, wish
<i>coarse</i>	rough	<i>course</i>	a direction; a school subject; part of a meal
<i>common</i>	belonging to many or to all	<i>mutual</i>	reciprocal
<i>compare</i>	considers likenesses and differences	<i>contrast</i>	show differences
<i>compare to</i>	stresses the resemblance of two things	<i>compare with</i>	stresses relative values (either alike or different)
<i>complement</i>	to add to so as to improve; an addition that improves something	<i>compliment</i>	to praise or express approval; an admiring remark
<i>continual</i>	something that recurs with sufficient frequency to be considered in a series; close recurrence in time	<i>continuous</i>	something that occurs without interruption
<i>council</i>	a group of people who manage or advise	<i>counsel</i>	advice; to advise
<i>credible</i>	believable	<i>creditable</i>	worthy of recognition
<i>cue</i>	a signal for action; a wooden rod	<i>queue</i>	a line of people or vehicles
<i>data are</i>	historically the proper combination	<i>data is</i>	gradually becoming more common in use
<i>defuse</i>	to make a situation less tense	<i>diffuse</i>	to spread over a wide area
<i>desert</i>	a waterless, empty area; to abandon someone	<i>dessert</i>	the sweet course of a meal
<i>different from</i>	preferred style	<i>different than</i>	acceptable style
<i>discreet</i>	careful not to attract attention	<i>discrete</i>	separate and distinct
<i>disinterested</i>	impartial; unbiased; not influenced by personal reasons: indifferent	<i>uninterested</i>	not interested; not paying attention
<i>draught</i>	a current of air	<i>draft</i>	a first version of a piece of writing

<i>draw</i>	an even score at the end of a game	<i>drawer</i>	a sliding storage compartment
<i>dual</i>	having two parts	<i>duel</i>	a fight or contest between two people
<i>each other</i>	relationship of two items	<i>one another</i>	relationships of three or more items
<i>elicit</i>	to draw out a reply or reaction	<i>illicit</i>	not allowed by law or rules
<i>ensure</i>	to make certain that something will happen	<i>insure</i>	to provide compensation if a person dies or property is damaged
<i>envelop</i>	to cover or surround	<i>envelope</i>	a paper container for a letter
<i>farther</i>	distance	<i>further</i>	depth
<i>fewer</i>	applies to number: use when counting individual items	<i>less</i>	usually used with non-countable or abstract concepts
<i>flounder</i>	to move clumsily; to have difficulty doing something	<i>founder</i>	to fail
<i>forbear</i>	to refrain	<i>forebear</i>	an ancestor
<i>foreword</i>	an introduction to a book	<i>forward</i>	movement onwards, ahead
<i>formally</i>	in a formal manner, precisely, ceremonially	<i>formerly</i>	in the past
<i>former</i>	first of two units	<i>latter</i>	second of two units
<i>free from</i>	standard use: devoid, lacking something	<i>free of</i>	colloquial use: avoid using
<i>further</i>	greater in degree, quantity, or time; in addition to	<i>farther</i>	refers to space, measurable distance
<i>genus</i>	class or kind	<i>genius</i>	great intellectual ability
<i>healthy</i>	possessing health (people and animals)	<i>healthful</i>	conducive to health (places and foods) <i>healthful climate</i>
<i>human (being)</i>	refers to people	<i>humane</i>	merciful, tender, considerate
<i>if</i>	expresses conditions	<i>whether</i>	expresses doubt, and also expresses conditions stated in indirect questions

imply to suggest indirectly; not explicitly state

impractical more formal: not practical, lacking practical usefulness or wisdom

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in regard to standard use; *concerning* or *about* is preferred

inferior to standard pair

ingenious resourceful, talented, tricky

irregardless non-standard English: avoid

later refers to time

legible capable of being deciphered; to be read with ease

loose to unfasten; to set free

maybe perhaps

moral good, proper

persuade change someone's behavior

pour to flow or cause to flow

precede come before in time, , rank, of sequence

principal most important; the head of a school; a sum of money; main, chief

prior to standard

respectively severally, in a specified order

infer to draw a conclusion from statements, circumstances, data, evidence

unpractical less formal: not practical, lacking practical usefulness or wisdom

impracticable not capable of being carried out, used, or managed

in regards to colloquial use: avoid using

inferior than non-standard: avoid using

ingenuous innocent, frank, naïve

regardless standard English: in spite of everything

latter second of two items (see *former*)

readable capable of being deciphered; to be read with ease + interesting or easy to read

lose to be deprived of; to be unable to find

may be expresses possibility

morale refers to a condition, state, or attitude

convince change someone's way of thinking/beliefs

pore a tiny opening; to study something closely

proceed to go forward after an interruption; continue

principle a governing rule or belief

prior than non-standard, colloquial use

respectfully in a respectful manner

sight the ability to see

so good, but overly used as a conjunctive adverb (接續副詞) and weak form

stationary not moving; fixed position

storey a level of a building

site a location

therefore,
thus,
accordingly,
...
stationery paper for writing

story a tale or account