



# Commonly Confused Words

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# Handout

## Instructions:

Choose the word  
that fits best  
within the context  
of the sentence

# Handout Review

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- I received **counsel** by my chemistry professor for the project due next Friday.
- In the warehouse, there are various **pallets** with the produce on top.
- I **ensure** that I will have the assignment completed by 4:00pm today.
- An equestrian would know that his horse needs **reins** .
- Switzerland is very **peaceable** , considering it has been uninvolved in many worldly conflicts.

# Handout Review

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- The caring manager was not happy to **apprise** his employees that their jobs were in jeopardy.
- The nervous comedian tried very hard to **elicit** laughs from the crowd.
- Mary did not get an invitation to Susan's birthday party because she is not part of the popular **clique**.
- Because of his mental illness, Joe loved to **hoard** newspapers and magazines, which made his house uninhabitable.
- When the number of protesters got too large, the police used tear gas to **disperse** the crowd.

# Handout Review

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1. **Counsel** is advice, **council** are people who make town decisions.
2. **Palate** is the top of your mouth, **palette** is an artist's board, and **pallet** is a platform to stack objects on.
3. **Ensure** is to guarantee, **insure** is simply insurance (health, property, etc.)
4. **Rein** is what a horse wears, **reign** is to govern and rule.
5. **Peaceable** is an attitude, **peaceful** is circumstantial.
6. **Apprise** is to inform, **appraise** is to apply value towards something (jewelry).
7. **Illicit** is something forbidden, while **elicit** is to evoke.
8. **Click** is a sound, **clique** is an "exclusive" group (high school.)
9. **Hoard** is to accumulate, **horde** is a large group.
10. **Disperse** is to scatter, **disburse** is to distribute money.

# Activity

On Laura Prestipino's Tutoring Portfolio, there is a [link](#) to take a survey as to which words you most commonly misuse, based on Grammar Snobs by June Casagrande.

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# What is the Problem with Commonly Confused Words?

When you use the incorrect word in a sentence, the meaning of the sentence gets misinterpreted.

Commonly mistaken words are more often than not phonetically similar.

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Unfortunately, although the similarities are small, the lasting effects could be detrimental to your writing.

This may seem like an over exaggeration, but think about it...



# Professional World: What Complications Could Arise?

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- Writing...
  - Emails
  - Essays
  - Articles
- GRAMMAR SNOBS!
  - Not only just a fun read, but actual people who exist in the world... beware!
  - Also contains sound, accurate advice towards commonly confused words

# Solution:

Does one exist?

Unfortunately, there are *so many* words that are commonly confused with one another, so the question arises: How do I know when to use the correct spelling?

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# How to Avoid

Much like trying to find a solution, the easiest way to avoid misusing a word is to know the definition of the word. Also, many people use tricks to remember the differences between similar words.

It is difficult at times to know the correct word to use. That is why they are known as commonly misused words.

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# How do I tell the difference?

## Some Examples:

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### 1. To Lie / To Lay

- a. To Lie = Something you do to yourself
- b. To Lay = Something you do to something else

### 2. Who / Whom

- a. Who = Subject (I, he, she, they, we)
- b. Whom = Object (me, him, her, them, us)
- c. "Anytime the person being referred to is performing any action at all (that is, is the subject of any verb at all), don't use the letter "m" (Casagrande 8).

### 3. Using Which / That

- a. Which = Nonessential (does not change sentence)
- b. That = Essential / Restrictive

### 4. Affect / Effect

# Resources!

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In the book, *Grammar Snobs Are Great Big Meanies*, by June Casagrande, chapter 41, titled "Satan's Vocabulary," has a grand list of many words that are commonly misused. This is a great tool to have next to you while writing.

## Links!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PfTuLm7M7xvGpc6SC4VQ4VhSdQlMYBDKcHgsSWjTDAY/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/usage/commonly-confused-words>

<http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/commonly-confused-words.html>

# Works Cited

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Grenier, Travis. (2013, May 20). *Affect vs. Effect*. Retrieved November 02, 2017, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCY7FbBQrCY>.

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Gaertner-Johnston, L. (2006, July 3). *Disburse Vs. Disperse—Wrong!* Retrieved November 02, 2017, from [http://www.businesswritingblog.com/business\\_writing/2006/07/disburse\\_vs\\_dis.html](http://www.businesswritingblog.com/business_writing/2006/07/disburse_vs_dis.html)

# Other Links for Professor Brower

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[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR0Q5p3cmpUo\\_RYGKzBdcIYwkjOUipYltXstISx50KPDtaCA/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR0Q5p3cmpUo_RYGKzBdcIYwkjOUipYltXstISx50KPDtaCA/viewform?c=0&w=1)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PfTuLm7M7xvGpc6SC4VQ4VhSdQIMYBDKcHgsSWjTDAY/edit?usp=sharing>