Commonly Confused Words & Commonly Misspelled Words

By Jessica Brand and Laura Elebesunnu
Commonly Confused words

- ex) Compliment/Complement, Bear/Bare, To/Too/Two, Sale/Sail, etc.
- Homonyms, homophones, and homographs
- Confusion and errors can be attributed to mistaking definitions and even misspelling

NOT SURE IF THIS AFFECTS ME
OR EFFECTS ME

THIS JOB ISN'T FOR EVERYONE
BUT HAY...ITS IN MY JEANS
Commonly Misspelled words

How does this happen?

- English happens to have diverse origins
- French, German, Latin, Greek
- Habits: when learning English/ texting/ social media
- spelling things how they sound
Spelling things how they sound!

Phonetics: “The letters in its alphabet consistently correspond to the same sounds and form reliable patterns of pronunciation.” (Grammarly)

English: We do not say words how they are spelt

Tricky for Individuals whose second language is english

“Spanish, a highly phonetic language. The letters in its alphabet consistently correspond to the same sounds and form reliable patterns of pronunciation. If you know the rules, you can spell any word you hear” (Grammarly)

This is where LDs come into play: **Blue = Jessica’s spelling**

*Common (common) birth day (birthday) tutor, toter (tutor) Wensday (Wednesday)*
Confused words: Rules

- Homonyms
  - words that share same sound and spelling but have different meanings
- Homophones
  - Same pronunciation, different meanings
  - Phone = sound
- Homographs
  - Same spelling, different meanings
  - Graph = write
Other Helpful Tips...

- Thoroughly **Proofread**
  - Do not solely rely on spellcheck
- Read your writing aloud
  - Better at catching mistakes
- Use Handy Dandy Resources
  - Dictionary, Google, etc.
**Misspelled words: rules**

- **I** before **E** EXCEPT after **c**

“This rule, designed to help us remember how to spell words such as *receive* and *chief*“ (Grammar.cc)

If the **C** is blocked by another letter it is **(ie)**

Chief

If the **C** is not blocked it is **(ei)**

Ceiling
**Misspelled words: rules**

-Dropping the final **E** - drop that **E**!!

“When adding an ending to a word that ends with a silent **e**, drop the final **e** if the ending begins with a vowel” (Grammar.cc)

Surprise - surprising

FYI: If a word ends with a constant letter just keep the **E** at the end

-Dropping the final **Y**

“When adding an ending to a word that ends with **y**, change the **y** to **i** when it is preceded by a consonant.” (Grammer.cc)

This rule does not work with words that end in **(ing)**

Supply - supplies
In the Writing Center...

Misspelled words:

- [Link](http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/spelling.htm)
- Spelling rules
- Google doc (life saver)
- Student making a list of words they have difficulty with. Have it as a handy little sheet or practice.

Confused words:

- Papers/Assignments
  - Tutor/Tutee Read aloud
  - Explain differences and correct
- General Issues
  - Review Grammar Rules
- Resources!
Resources

- Text
  - Grammar Snobs, Little Seagull Handbook, They Say I Say, etc.
- Online
  - Google, Grammarly, Grammar girl, Purdue Owl
  - Other
    - Confused Words
    - List of Explanations
      - http://homepage.smc.edu/reading_lab/words_commonly_confused.htm
      - http://www.homophonecheck.com/
      - http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/conford.html
      - https://www.cooper.com/alan/homonym_list.html
More Resources

- re-read your work aloud & have others read your work
- https://www.logicofenglish.com/resources/spelling-rules - list of spelling rules
- https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/spelling/common-misspellings - handy list of commonly misspelled words/advice
- http://www.star-ts.com/spellingrules/free-spelling-game.shtml - a fun little game that is LD friendly
Let me show you my proper use of grammar:
They're going to their car over there.
Checkmate.

Go forth and write well!

Make sure to visit the writing center!

You don't go to the writing center??
Don't be a cotton-headed ninny muggins.

To the writing center
Go you should
Let’s take a quiz!

- Confused Words
  - [http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/langan/sentence_skills/exercises/ch29/p4exr.htm](http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/langan/sentence_skills/exercises/ch29/p4exr.htm)
  - [https://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/quiz/usage.htm](https://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/quiz/usage.htm)

- Misspelled Words
  - [https://www.sporcle.com/games/jsed85/commonly-misspelled-words](https://www.sporcle.com/games/jsed85/commonly-misspelled-words)
- Memes from Google
- Confused Words: Grammar Rules
- Misspelled words: