

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

Its – belonging to it (shows ownership)

We were going to play fetch with the dog, but we couldn't find its ball.

It's – it is (contraction)

It's a beautiful day to play outside with the dog.

Their – belonging to them

Their car is in the shop.

They're – they are

They're going to pick it up tomorrow.

There – refers to location or place

My friend is over there, near the swings.

Your – belonging to you (shows ownership)

Your homework needs to be done before you go out to play.

You're – You are (contraction)

You're not allowed out past eight o'clock on weeknights.

Who's – who is (contraction)

Who's going to the movies tonight?

Whose – belonging to whom (shows ownership)

Whose sweatshirt is this?

To – preposition

I am going to class.

Two (noun) – 2

Maria has two cats, Boots and Lola.

Too (verb) – excess; also

I have too much homework tonight!

I like you too.

Then (adverb) – related to time

First we will do our chores, and then we can watch television.

Than (conjunction) – shows comparison

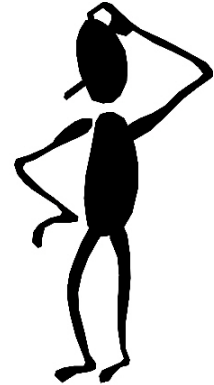
Joey likes soccer better than he likes football.

Fewer (plural noun) – how many?

Danielle has fewer books to carry home today than she did yesterday.

Less (singular noun) – how much?

Danielle has less time after school to do her homework than last year, because she has dance class three times per week.



Effect (noun) – result of an action

The medicine he is taking has some side effects, including drowsiness.

(verb) – bring about accomplishment

The present student council effected many positive changes for the school.

Affect (verb) – to influence; to change

The rain did not affect the playing conditions, so the game went on!

Could've – could have (contraction) NOT "could of"

I could've gone to the mall, but instead I stayed home to finish my homework.

Would've – would have (contraction) NOT "would of"

I would've gone to the party, had it not been for the project I had to finish.

Should've – should have (contraction) NOT "should of"

She should've gone to her locker before class, instead of asking the teacher if she could go during the lesson.

Must've – must have (contraction) NOT "must of"

a lot – not "alot" – you wouldn't write "alittle" as one word

There are a lot of reasons you should join an after school club.

all right – not "alright" or "allright" – you wouldn't write "allwrong" as one word

I hope that the soccer player that got hurt at yesterday's game is all right.

Farther – physical advancement in distance

I ran farther than she did.

California is farther away from New Jersey than Texas is.

Further – advancement in degree, such as in time

You read further in the book than I did.

He went to college to further his education.

Anyways – **NOT A WORD!** Replace with "anyway" or "any way"

Anyway – means "anyhow," "in any case," or "regardless"

Anyway, Nick doesn't want to go to Paris.

Any way – as in, "Any way you slice it, Nick does not want to go to the doctor."

Among – a preposition used with three or more persons or things.

*I could not decide among the three different desserts which one I wanted to eat.
The scared kitten was hiding among her many brothers and sisters.*

Between – a preposition used with two persons or things.

I could not decide between the cheesecake and the apple pie, so I ordered both!

Accept – to receive

She was accepted to her number one college.

Except – to take or leave out

Please take all of the coats out of the closet except for my raincoat.

Lose (verb) – to misplace or not win

If Mary loses her new phone, she will be in a lot of trouble.

Loose (adjective) – not tight

The door handle was so loose that it practically fell off in my hand when I tried to turn it.

Quote (verb) – to cite

The students were required to quote at least two famous authors in their literature paper.

Quotation (noun) – a citation

The book of famous quotations inspired us all.

"I before "e" except after "c" or sounded as "a" as in "neighbor" or "weigh"

Text language and slang must be avoided in academic writing. However, the use of some slang and dialect is acceptable when writing dialogue in creative writing pieces, where appropriate.

Words that should NEVER be used in formal writing:

Anyways	Ur
Gonna	R
LOL	Shoulda
Btw	Wanna
U	