



HOMOPHONES AND OTHER CONFUSING WORDS

Accept, except

Accept is a verb that means “to receive something offered.”
*Jane will **accept** the nomination for class president.*

Except is usually a preposition that means “to the exclusion of.”
*He told everyone **except** his father the truth.*

Advise, advice

Advise is a verb that means “to offer counsel.”
*Mary was **advised** to take driver’s education.*

Advice is a noun that means “an opinion about a course of action.”
*Tom did not take his wife’s **advice** about going to the doctor.*

Affect, effect

Affect is a verb that means “to influence or bring about a change in.”
*The layoffs will **affect** 100 employees.*

Effect is most often used as a noun that means “result.”
*One possible **effect** of smoking is lung cancer.*

Effect is more rarely used as a verb that means “to bring about.”
*The new manager **effected** many changes in company policies.*

Farther, further

Farther is an adverb that refers to matters of distance.
*It is **farther** to Atlantic Beach than to Myrtle Beach.*

Further can be an adjective or adverb that means “to a greater degree or extent.”
*A private detective is looking into the case **further**.*

It’s, its

It’s is a contraction (shortened form) of “it is.”
***It’s** going to be a rainy evening.*

Its is a possessive pronoun.
*The dog was chasing **its** tail.*

Loose, lose

Loose is an adjective that means “not tight.”

*John needed a belt to hold up his **loose** pants.*

Lose is a verb that means “to be unable to find or to be defeated.”

*No one wants to **lose** a credit card.*

Principal, principle

Principal as a noun means “presiding leader.”

*Janie’s high school has a new **principal** this year.*

Principal as an adjective means “primary or main.”

*Hector was the **principal** actor in the play.*

Principle is a noun that means “a basic belief or standard.”

*It is against her **principles** to buy a fur coat.*

Stationery, stationary

Stationery is a noun that means “paper products used for writing.”

*Writing thank you notes requires a good supply of **stationery**.*

Stationary is an adjective that means “not moving.”

*The flag pole in front of the building is **stationary**.*

Than, then

Than is a conjunction that is used to make a comparison.

*Heidi’s hair is curlier **than** her sister’s.*

Then is an adverb that refers to time.

*Mark will go to the gym and **then** take a shower.*

They’re, there, their

They’re is a contraction for “they are.”

***They’re** going to the movies this evening.*

There is an adverb that refers to location.

*The book you are looking for is over **there**.*

There can also be used as an expletive at the beginning of a sentence.

***There** are many beautiful flowers in the garden.*

Their is a possessive pronoun.

***Their** car is at the repair shop.*

Threw, through

Threw is the past tense form of the verb *throw*, which means “to propel through the air with an arm motion.”

*The second baseman **threw** the ball to home plate.*

Through is a preposition that means “in one side and out the other.”

*Jan took a quiet walk **through** the woods.*

To, too, two

To is a preposition that means “in a direction toward.”

*Many people go **to** the park on sunny days.*

Too is an adverb that means “more than enough.”

*She paid **too** much for that pair of shoes.*

Two is a noun or adjective that is used as a number.

*Travis purchased **two** lottery tickets.*

Were, where

Were is the past tense plural form of the verb *be*, which means “to exist.”

*Over seventy people **were** at the meeting.*

Where refers to location.

*Do you know **where** she is going?*

Who’s, whose

Who’s is a contraction for “who is.”

***Who’s** ringing the doorbell?*

Whose is a possessive pronoun.

***Whose** dog is barking so loudly?*

You’re, your

You’re is a contraction for “you are.”

***You’re** going to be the first speaker on the program.*

Your is a possessive pronoun.

***Your** paycheck is in the mail.*