**Commonly Confused Words**

[**Advice/Advise**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/advise-advice/) Advice is a noun. Advise is a verb.

[**Affect/Effect**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/affect-vs-effect/) Affect is usually a verb. Effect is usually a noun. If you find yourself unsure of which one to use in a sentence, try substituting the word “effect” for “result.” Also substitute the word “influence” for “affect” to see if it works.

[**Among/Amongst**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/amongst-among/) Among is the preferred and most common variant of this word in American English. Amongst is more common in British English.

[**Among/Between**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/between-among/) Among expresses a collective or loose relationship of several items: Between expresses the relationship of one thing to another thing or to many other things.

[**Assure/Ensure/Insure**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/assure-ensure-insure/) Assure means to tell someone that something will definitely happen or is definitely true. Ensure means to guarantee or make sure of something. Insure means to take out an insurance policy.

[**Breath/Breathe**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/breath/) Breath is a noun; it’s the air that goes in and out of your lungs:. Breathe is a verb; it means to exhale or inhale.

[**Capital/Capitol**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/capital-vs-capitol/) Capital has several meanings. It can refer to an uppercase letter, money, or a city where a seat of government is located. Capitol means the building where a legislature meets.

[**Complement/Compliment**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/complement-compliment/) A complement is something that completes something else. It’s often used to describe things that go well together. A compliment is a nice thing to say to flatter someone.

**Disinterested/Uninterested** Disinterested means impartial. Uninterested means bored or not wanting to be involved with something.

[**Defence/Defense**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/defence-defense/) Defense is standard in American English. Defence is found mainly in British English.

[**Emigrate/Immigrate**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/emigrate-immigrate/) Emigrate means to move away from a city or country to live somewhere else. Immigrate means to move into a country from somewhere else.

[**E.g./I.e.**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/know-your-latin-i-e-vs-e-g/) These two Latin abbreviations are often mixed up, but e.g. means “for example,” while i.e. means “that is.”

[**Empathy/Sympathy**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/empathy-sympathy/) Empathy is the ability to understand another person’s perspective or feelings. Sympathy is a feeling of sorrow for someone else’s suffering. A sympathizer is someone who agrees with a particular ideal or cause.

[**Farther/Further**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/farther-further/) Farther refers to physical distance. Further refers to metaphorical distance.

[**Gray/Grey**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/gray-grey/) Gray is the standard American English spelling. Grey is the standard British English spelling. Both are correct.

[**Historic/Historical**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/historic-historical/) Historic means famous, important, and influential. Historical means related to history.

[**Imply/Infer**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/imply-infer/) Imply means to hint at something without saying it directly. Infer means to deduce something that hasn’t been stated directly or hinted at.

[**It’s/Its**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/its-vs-its/) It’s is a [contraction](http://www.grammarly.com/blog/2016/contractions/) of “it is”. Its is a possessive pronoun that means “belonging to it.”

[**Lead/Led**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/led-lead/) Lead, when it rhymes with “bed,” refers to a type of metal. Led is the past tense of the verb to lead.

[**Loose/Lose**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/loose-lose/) Loose is usually an adjective which means unrestrained or unfastened.  Lose is always a verb.

[**Principal/Principle**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/principle-principal/) Principal can be a noun or adjective. As a noun, it refers to the person in charge of a school or organization. As an adjective, it means most important.

**Inquiry/Enquiry** Inquiry and enquiry both mean “a request for information.” Inquiry is the standard American English spelling. Enquiry is the British spelling.

[**Than/Then**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/than-then/) Than is used for comparisons. Then is used to indicate time or sequence.

[**Their/There/They’re**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/there-their-theyre/) Their is the possessive form of “they.” There indicates a place or location. They’re is a [contraction](http://www.grammarly.com/blog/2016/contractions/) of “they are.”

[**To/Too**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/to-too/) To is a preposition that can indicate direction. To is also used in the infinitive form of verbs. Too is used to mean “also.”

[**Toward/Towards**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/toward-towards/) Toward is standard in American English. Towards is standard in British English.

[**Who’s/Whose**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/whos-whose/) Who’s is a [contraction](http://www.grammarly.com/blog/2016/contractions/) of “who is.” Whose is a possessive pronoun that means “belonging to [someone].”

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