

Words That Sound Similar: Some Common Examples

Word	Hint
Accept	Verb: to receive (<i>I accept your apology.</i>)
Except	Preposition: not including (<i>Everyone is going except me.</i>)
Affect	Verb: to have an influence on (Your sleep habits may affect your grades.) Note: this word is only used as a verb
Effect	Noun: a result or consequence (<i>Most medicines have side effects.</i>) Verb: to bring something about (<i>to effect change</i>)
Allowed	Verb: permitted (<i>Am I allowed to smoke here?</i>)
Aloud	Adverb: to speak or laugh so that other people can hear
Aural	Adjective: Related to the ability to hear
Oral	Adjective: Related to speaking or to the mouth (<i>an oral presentation</i>)
Broach	Verb: to carefully introduce a topic that may be sensitive
Brooch	Noun: decorative jewelry worn on clothing
Change	Verb: to make something different Noun: an alteration or modification (<i>a change of plans</i>)
Exchange	Verb: to give something and receive something else in return Noun: the process of exchanging (<i>I made an exchange at the store.</i>)
Choose	Present tense of the verb to choose ; stress the /oo/sound
Chose	Past tense of the verb to choose ; stress the /o/ sound
Complementary	Adjective: describes when two different things match or go well together
Complimentary	Adjective: free, or the nature of giving compliments
Coarse	Adjective: describes a rough texture; rude or offensive material (<i>coarse jokes</i>)
Course	Noun: this word has many meanings; for example: a series or program
Council	Noun: a group of people with a particular responsibility
Counsel	Verb: to advise

Foreword	Noun: an introduction to the author or the subject, at the beginning of a book
Forward	Adjective: relating to the future (forward planning) Adverb: toward the front (Drive forward into the parking spot.)
Loose	Adjective: meaning 'not tight' (I lost weight and now my clothes are loose.)
Lose	Verb: think of 'lost' to help you remember this word (I win: you lose.)
Of	Stress the /ov/ sound
Off	Stress the /ff/ sound
Passed	Verb: the past tense of to pass (The car passed me at full speed.)
Past	Can be an adjective, noun, adverb, or preposition – but never a verb
Personal	Adjective: individual or private
Personnel	Noun: employees or staff
Principal	Noun: the person in charge of an institution, such as a school
Principle	Adjective: the most important (the principal reason) Noun: a belief or value (Truth is a basic principle.)
Quiet	Adjective: to be silent or almost noiseless (The class was completely quiet.)
Quit	Verb: to give up or abandon (I quit!)
Quite	Adverb: can mean either almost (It's quite impossible.) or completely (She was quite lovely.)
Role	Noun: relating to the way someone is involved in an activity (an actor's role in a play)
Roll	Multiple meanings, as a verb, noun, adj, prep: refer to a good dictionary
Stationary	Adjective: not moving (There was a stationary car outside the house.)
Stationery	Noun: paper, envelopes, writing pads, etc. The 'e' in envelope will help you to remember.

Student Learning Centre

Call: 905.721.8668 ext. 6578
 Email: studentlearning@ontariotechu.ca Downtown Oshawa Location: 61 Charles St.
 Website: ontariotechu.ca/studentlearning North Oshawa Location: Student Life Building

