

1. adapt, adept, adopt
Adopt is to take someone into your family.
 Last week, the Wilsons adopted a new puppy.
Adapt is to adjust, accommodate, or conform to new or different conditions.
 The Wilsons' cat, Lydia, is having trouble adapting to the new puppy.
Adept is completely versed or thoroughly proficient in a subject.
 Fortunately, John Wilson is adept at training dogs and cats to live together harmoniously.
2. addicted, devoted
Addicted is a physiological or psychological dependence on a habit-forming substance.
 Tillie is addicted to chocolate; she eats at least three Hershey bars a day.
Devoted is feeling or displaying strong affection or attachment.
 Max is devoted to Tillie and committed to keep her supplied with Hershey bars.
3. adverse, averse
Adverse means unfavorable or harmful
Live as brave men; and if fortune is adverse, front its blows with brave hearts. - Cicero
Averse means unwilling or opposed
 I am very averse to bringing myself forward in print. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
4. affect, effect
Affect is a verb that means "to influence."
 Staying up too late tonight will *affect* your ability to stay awake in class tomorrow.
Effect is a noun that indicates the result of action.
 Getting adequate sleep will have a positive *effect* on your attitude and attention.
5. afraid, regret
Afraid is filled with fear, apprehension, or concern.
 John Madden traveled everywhere in his luxury bus because he was afraid to fly.
 Do not substitute *afraid* for *regret* which is to feel remorse or sorrow; be contrite about
 I regret to inform you that Madden's bus has broken down.
6. altogether, all together
Altogether means entirely, completely, and utterly.
 Altogether, John Madden's bus cost \$800,000.
All together designates "in a group" or "at the same time."
 The waiter asked if we were all together and ready to be seated.
7. appraise, apprise
Appraise is to assess or evaluate.
 I took my grandmother's silver tea set to an antique dealer to get it appraised.
Apprise is to inform.
 The dealer apprised us that the tea set was made in England during the 19th century.
8. [as a / on the] whole, in general
 Unless you've been limiting the discussion to only partial elements of the topic and you are now shifting the focus to the entire topic, you should use *in general*.
9. as / because
 In introductory clauses "as" is less precise than "because, since," or "while."
 As Because I have plans for Friday, I can't go out with you.
10. aside from
Aside means to one side; out of the way or in reserve.
 Do not use *aside from* in place of *besides* or *except*.
 Name a song written by Charles Wesley besides "And Can It Be."

- 11. bazaar, bizarre** *A bazaar* is a noun that describes a marketplace where various items are sold.
While he was on tour, Bob always stopped at the local bazaar to purchase souvenirs.
Bizarre is an adjective that means conspicuously or grossly unconventional or unusual.
Sometimes Bob bought bizarre items such as the gold-plated monkey paw.
- 12. better, had better** *Better* is more desirable, satisfactory, or effective than good.
Absalom considered Hushai's counsel better than that of Ahithophel.
Had better means you would find it wiser.
Ahithophel advised, "You had better study for the English test."
- 13. canvas, canvass** *Canvas* is a fabric.
Alex went to the art store to purchase canvas for his painting class.
Canvass is soliciting votes
Before the election, the volunteers were assigned to canvass the area for their candidate.
- 14. capital, Capitol** The word *capital* can refer to a city, money, or an uppercase letter
Students are required to memorize the fifty states and capitals.
Capitol refers to a building that serves as seat of government and is always capitalized
There was a large Tea Party crowd outside the Capitol in Sacramento yesterday.
- 15. censor, censure** A *censor* examines material to ensure that moral or political standards are met.
During World War II, censors reviewed all outgoing mail from servicemen.
Censure can be a noun designating condemnation or official reprimand or a verb meaning severely criticize or officially disapprove
It was the suggestion of criminal activity that lead to the censure of the congressman.
- 16. cite, site, sight** *Cite* means quote, state, or mention formally.
The research assignment specifies that students *cite* at least three sources.
Site is a location of a building, place, or scene.
Only one of the three sources can be from a web *site*.
Sight has to do with the ability to see, something seen, or field of vision.
The *sight* of the research assignment specifications brought despair to the students.
- 17. complement, compliment** *Complement* means to fill out, make whole, or complete something
Compliment means to praise.
If you feel you and your new friend **complement** each other, maybe it's because he's been giving you so many **compliments**.
- 18. compose, comprise** *Compose* is a verb that means to put something together, like a song, poem, yourself.
Comprise is a verb used for describing what something includes or contains.
Ralph **composed** a song about bumblebees that was **comprised** of words rhyming with honey.
- 19. conscious, conscience** *Conscious* is an adjective that means alert, awake, and aware of surroundings.
Conscience is the noun used to describe inner motivation based on ideas of right and wrong.
When the ambulance arrived after the accident, Wade was **conscious** enough to have a guilty **conscience** for not signaling when he changed lanes.

- 20.** defective, deficient
Defective is not working properly.
 After the defective part was identified, the manufacturer issued a recall on the item.
Deficient is missing a necessary part.
 No one is perfect; everyone is deficient in some area.
- 21.** demur, demure
Demure is an adjective that describes someone shy, quiet, and modest.
 Peggy wasn't a bit demure which was evident by her number of demerits for dress violations.
Demur is a verb for take exception to, and a noun for formal objection.
 Because of his reputation, Matilda demurred to accept Max's invitation to join him for coffee, and told him, "No, thank you."
- 22.** descent, dissent
Descent is a noun indicating a downward movement.
 As the pilot was making his descent, the landing gear failed to function.
Dissent is a noun and verb for a public disagreement with an official opinion or decision
 Those in disagreement with the legislation politely but firmly protested their dissent.
- 23.** disassemble, dissemble
Disassemble is a verb meaning to take something apart.
 Grandpa gave Burt a tool kit for Christmas, and, by New Year's Day, his room was covered with the parts of toys that he had disassembled.
Dissemble is a verb meaning to hide under a false appearance, to deceive.
 When asked if he was a follower of Christ, Peter dissembled himself and declared, "I know not the man".
- 24.** discomfit, discomfort
 The ancient meaning of the verb, *discomfit*, is to destroy completely in battle, but today it means make someone embarrassed or upset.
Discomfort is a noun meaning uncomfortable physical or mental distress.
 Most of the other children in the class felt discomfort when the bully discomfited the new foreign student.
- 25.** discreet, discrete
Discreet is circumspect, careful, or showing good judgment
 Her discreet manners and dress hid the fact that she had recently inherited a fortune.
Discrete is unattached or unrelated
 Look closely to see the numerous discrete brushstrokes in an Impressionist painting.
- 26.** dual, duel
dual is double, or having two elements.
 Catherine has a dual major: music and science.
duel is a fight between two people.
 Shakespeare's longest play, *Hamlet*, ends with a deadly duel: a swordfight between Hamlet and Laertes.
- 27.** each and every
Each and every is a redundancy; use either *each* or *every*.
- 28.** eminent, imminent
eminent is an adjective meaning standing above others in quality or position.
Hamlet is considered by many to be one of the greatest plays ever written by the most eminent playwright of all time.
imminent is an adjective meaning close in time; about to occur
 If you fail pay your school bill, your departure from the college will be imminent.

- 29. ensure, insure** *ensure* is means to make certain a thing will (or won't) happen.
insure is to arrange for financial compensation against the loss of something or against someone getting hurt or dying.

Ralph ensured his wife that he had insured her new car for both liability and comprehension.
- 30. entomology, etymology** *entomology* is the study of insects.
It is no surprise that Will, who was seldom seen without a butterfly net in his youth, decided to major in entomology.

etymology is the study of the history and derivations of words.
Will's sister, Jill, is as fascinated with the origins of words as Will is with insects; she is pursuing a degree in the field of etymology.
- 31. envelop, envelope** *envelop* is enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering.
Early each day the faculty meets to envelop their students in prayers.

envelope is a flat (usually rectangular) container for a letter, thin package, etc.
In Chinese homes, children receive red envelopes containing money for New Year.
- 32. envy, jealousy** *envy* is a feeling of grudging admiration and desire to have something that is possessed by another. *Envy* comes from the Latin word *invidere*, which literally means "look upon."

jealousy is actually derived from a Middle English word related to *zealous*, which means emotionally intense. Jealousy is feeling suspicious or unduly suspicious or fearful of being displaced by a rival

Betty felt *envy* when Veronica's parents gave her a new car for her birthday, but the feeling quickly transformed into *jealousy* when she spotted Archie admiring both the car and Veronica.
- 33. exalt, exult** *exalt* is to praise, glorify, or honor.
O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)

exult is to feel extreme happiness or elation.
The last time I saw him exult this much was when the Giants won the World Series.
- 34. extant, extent** *extant* is still in existence; not extinct or destroyed or lost
The Dodo bird is extinct, but the similarly flightless and unattractive ostrich is still extant.

extent is the point or degree to which something reaches or covers.
People were astonished at the extent of the damage by the 2005 tsunami in Indonesia.
- 35. gorilla, guerrilla** *gorilla* is large anthropoid apes of the family Pongidae.
Gorillas look like big monkeys, but they are much more dangerous.

guerrilla is a member of an irregular armed force that fights a stronger force by sabotage and harassment.
The French Resistance during World War II consisted of volunteer guerrilla fighters willing to do anything to foil the Nazi invaders.
- 36. guys, kids** Informally, the word *guys* is used to denote adults or youth of either gender; *guys* should be replaced with an appropriate alternative in formal writing.

Kids are young goats; use *children* in formal writing.

- 37. hardly, scarcely** *Hardly* means “barely, just, to almost no degree” or “almost not
I could hardly hear the speaker
Scarcely means “by a small margin.”
We scarcely made it to Sunday School in time.
- 38. hoard, horde** *hoard* is a verb for get or gather together
The rich man in the parable found in Luke 12 had planned on hoarding his harvest and retiring in comfort for the rest of his life.
horde is a crowd of people.
Whenever Jesus performed miracles or passed out free food, hordes of people following him.
- 39. hopefully** *Hopefully* is adverb meaning in a hopeful manner. Do not confuse *hopefully* with *I hope*.
I hope it will snow tomorrow.
“I wish it would snow;” she said hopefully.
- 40. ingenious, ingenuous** *ingenious* is showing inventiveness and skill.
One of the most ingenious inventions of the 20th century is cookie dough ice cream.
ingenuous is lacking in sophistication or worldliness, naive. characterized by an inability to mask your feelings; not devious
My dog stared at me with innocent brown ingenuous eyes confident that I would eventually give her whatever she wanted.
- 41. intense, intents** *intense* is an adjective for possessing or displaying a feature to a heightened degree.
Bungee jumping off of a bridge is an intense experience.
intents is an adjective *meaning* focused or concentrated; it is also a noun means aim or goal.
Bill was intent on keeping secret his intent to proposal to Jill that week.
- 42. loath, loathe** *Loath* is an adjective meaning reluctant.
She was loath to admit that she didn’t want to go out with him.
Loathe is a verb meaning despise.
Since he really loathes rejection, I was surprised that he asked her for a date.
- 43. mad** The technical meaning of *mad* is insane
The discussion was on Hamlet’s insanity. Was he acting, or was he really mad?
- 44. mantel, mantle** A *mantel* is a frame around a fireplace.
A *mantle* is a sleeveless cloak.
Little Red Riding Hood hung her *mantle* on a hook near the *mantel*.
- 45. marital, martial** *marital* is of or relating to the state of marriage. Sample sentence
martial is suggesting war or military life.
Despite the advice from their Pastor and their Sensei, martial arts enthusiasts Johnny and Judy did not think that they needed pre-marital counseling.
- 46. metal, mettle** *Metal* is a solid chemical element such as copper or gold.
His piggy bank sounds as if it is full of metal not paper currency.
Mettle is strength of character, courage, or spirit.
Attending Bible College will test one’s mettle.

- 47. mete, meet** The verb *mete* means allot, dole, or give out by measure.
 For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
 The verb *meet* is encounter for the first time or get together by previous arrangement
 God told Aaron to go into the wilderness to meet Moses.
- 48. moral, morale** *moral* is an adjective meaning concerned with principles of right and wrong or conforming
 to standards of behavior and character based on those principles. It is also a noun for
 the significance of a story or event
 morale is a noun for the spirit of a group that makes the members want the group to succeed.
 Several of the team members were accused of cheating, a *moral* lapse that effected
 the *morale* of the whole team who remained scoreless for the rest of the season.
- 49. palate, palette, pallet** *palate* is the upper surface of the mouth that separates the oral and nasal cavities; this word
 is often used when discussing taste in a broader sense.
 Bert claimed to have a palate so sophisticated that he could discern the country of
 origin of any cheese.
 palette is board on which artists mix paints as well as the range of colors used.
 The new home was decorated with a limited palette of browns, beiges, tans, and off-
 whites.
 pallet is a portable platform for storing or moving goods that are stacked on it; also, a
 mattress filled with straw or a pad made of quilts; used as a bed
 Carter used the wood from discarded pallets to construct a cradle.
- 50. parameter, perimeter** *parameter* is a constant in mathematics, or any factor that defines a system and determines
 (or limits) its performance.
 perimeter is the boundary line or the area immediately inside the boundary.
 Just remember: The *parameters* of playing hide-and-seek are not peeking while you
 count, and to stay within the *perimeter* of the yard when you hide.
- 51. patience, patients** *Patience* is the quality or capacity for being patient.
 If you want a garden, you need patience; apples don't grow overnight.
 Patients are persons under medical care or treatment.
 Nurses in the average emergency room care for four patients at a time.
- 52. peak, peek, pique** *peak* is a noun meaning the highest point (of something).
 peek is a verb meaning glance at; take a brief or secret look at.
 pique is a verb meaning cause to feel resentment or indignation
 She took a quick *peek* at the mountain *peak* and was *piqued* to discover several
 busloads of boy scouts setting up tents.
- 53. peddle, pedal, petal** *pedal* is a verb for ride a bicycle, or operate the pedals on a keyboard instrument
 Sammy pedaled the five blocks to school each day in fifteen minutes.
 peddle is a verb meaning sell or offer for sale from place to place
 Half a century ago, it was not uncommon to find salesman at your door peddling
 vacuum cleaners, encyclopedias, cleaning products, and hairbrushes.
 petal is a noun for the usually brightly colored part of a flower
 Three adorable flower girls haphazardly sprinkling rose petals preceded the bride
 down the altar.

- 54.** pore, pour
Pore means to study intently.
 He pored over his grammar notes before the test, but forget to review the diction.
Pour means to flow continuously or cause to flow continuously.
 The rain continued to pour on the field, and only the diehard fans remained in the stands
- 55.** prophecy, prophesy
prophecy is a noun meaning a prediction uttered under divine inspiration.
 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy. (I Tim 4:14)
prophesy is a verb meaning to predict or reveal through divine inspiration
 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. (Numbers 11:27)
- 56.** real, really
Real is an adjective meaning genuine or authentic.
 He is looking for a young lady who has a real walk with God
Really is an adverb. Synonyms for *really* are very, truly, genuinely
 May I ask you a really quick question?
- 57.** sensuous, sensual
Sensuous means to appeal to the senses or to have strong sensory appeal.
 Going to a coffee shop is a sensuous experience: the pungent smell of roasted beans, the hissing sound of steaming milk, and the tempting sight of fresh pastry
Sensual pertains to fleshly or sexual appeal.
 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (Jas 3:15)
- 58.** statue, statute
statue is a sculpture.
 There is a statue of Joan of Arc on horseback outside the Legion of Honor.
statute is a formal law or rule, an act passed by a legislative body.
 States cannot nullify a statute passed by Congress.
- 59.** sure, surely
sure is an adjective meaning having or feeling no doubt or uncertainty
 No man is sure of life. (Job 24:22)
surely is an adverb
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (Ps.23:6)
- 60.** use/used to, suppose/, supposed to
 Utilize the present tense *use to* when expressing the concept of customary or formerly only when *use to* is accompanied by the helping verb *did*.
 Didn't she use to date his roommate?
 If *use to* is unaccompanied by *did*, employ the past tense *used to*.
 He used to date her roommate.
Suppose to is a misspelled or misunderstood form of *supposed to*, which means "meant to" or "intended to."
 There is an unwritten rule in this school: You are not supposed to date the present roommate of your previous relationship.