



Commonly Misspelled Words

Words that sound like each other but are spelled differently (*accept/except*, *assent/ascent*) are known as **homophones**.

WORD	MEANING
accept	receive
except	other than
affect	to influence; an emotional response
effect	result
all ready	prepared
already	by this time
allusion	indirect reference
illusion	faulty belief or perception
ascent	upward movement
assent	agreement
assure	state positively
ensure	make certain
insure	indemnify
bare	naked
bear	carry; an animal
board	get on; flat piece of wood
bored	not interested
brake	stop
break	shatter, destroy; a gap; a pause

WORD	MEANING
capital	seat of government; monetary resources
capitol	building that houses government
cite	quote an authority
sight	ability to see; a view
site	a place
complement	to complete or supplement
compliment	to praise
desert	abandon
dessert	sweet course at conclusion of meal
discreet	tactful, reserved
discrete	separate or distinct
elicit	draw out, evoke
illicit	illegal
eminent	well known, respected
immanent	inherent
imminent	about to happen

WORD	MEANING
fair	lovely; light-colored; just
fare	fee for transportation
forth	forward
fourth	after <i>third</i>
gorilla	an ape
guerrilla	kind of soldier or warfare
hear	perceive sound
here	in this place
heard	past tense of <i>hear</i>
herd	group of animals
hole	opening
whole	complete
its	possessive form of <i>it</i>
it's	contraction for <i>it is</i>
know	understand or be aware of
no	negative
later	following in time
latter	last in a series

WORD	MEANING
lessen	make less
lesson	something learned
loose	not tight
lose	misplace
meat	flesh
meet	encounter
passed	past tense of <i>pass</i>
past	after; events occurring at a prior time
patience	calm endurance
patients	people getting medical treatment
peace	calm or absence of war
piece	part of something
plain	clear, unadorned
plane	woodworking tool; airplane
persecute	harass
prosecute	take legal action against
personal	relating to oneself
personnel	employees

WORD	MEANING
precede	come before
proceed	go ahead, continue
principal	most important; head of a school
principle	basic truth, rule of behavior
rain	precipitation
reign	to rule; period of ruling
rein	strap for guiding an animal
raise	lift up or build up
raze	tear down
right	correct
rite	ritual
write	compose; put words into a text
road	street
rode	past tense of <i>ride</i>
scene	section of a play; setting of an action
seen	visible
stationary	fixed in place or still
stationery	paper for writing

WORD	MEANING
straight	unbending
strait	water passageway
than	compared with
then	at that time; next
their	possessive form of <i>they</i>
there	in that place
they're	contraction for <i>they are</i>
to	toward
too	in addition, also
two	number after <i>one</i>
waist	middle of body
waste	leftover or discarded material
which	one of a group
witch	person with magical powers
who's	contraction for <i>who is</i>
whose	possessive of <i>who</i>
your	possessive of <i>you</i>
you're	contraction for <i>you are</i>