

# Battle of the

COMMONLY

# MISSPELLED

or

# MISUSED

## WORDS



# VS

## ACCEPT

(verb) to receive

I **accepted** all my birthday gifts with gratitude.

## EXCEPT

(conjunction) apart from; otherwise than; were it not true

When Susan travels, she packs everything **except** the kitchen sink.

## AFFECT

(verb) to have an effect on; influence; produce a change in; to stir the emotions

The dog's death **affected** his owners.

## EFFECT

(noun) anything brought about by a cause or agent; result

The new speed limit law had little **effect** on the speed of the motorists.

## A LOT

\*\*"A lot" is always two separate words. "Alot" is not a real word.

(noun phrase) many

**A lot** of people came to the party.\*

## ALLOT

(verb) to distribute, give or assign

Fifteen minutes were **allotted** to each of the speakers at the conference.

## ALLUSION

(noun) an indirect reference

The Austin Powers movies often make **allusions** to the James Bond films.

## ILLUSION

(noun) a false idea or conception; belief or opinion not in accord with the facts; an unreal, deceptive, or misleading appearance or image

The magician created the **illusion** that he was levitating.

## AWHILE

(adverb) for a while; for a short time

The guests planned to stay **awhile**.

## A WHILE

(noun) for a short time; when while is used as the object of the preposition (for a while) then the "a" is separated from the "while"

The guests planned to stay for **a while**.

## BORROW

(verb) to take or accept something for a short time with the intention of returning it to its rightful owner

May I **borrow** a pencil, please?

## LEND

(verb) to give something for a short time with the intention of getting it back

Would you please **lend** me a pencil?

## CACHE

(noun) a safe place to store supplies; anything stored or hidden in such a place

The hikers found a **cache** with some cash and jewels.

## CASH

(noun) money, coins, bills; currency

ATM machines dispense **cash**.

## DESERT

(verb) to forsake or abandon; to leave without permission; to fail when needed

Soldiers should not **desert** their posts

(noun) dry, barren, sandy region

The largest **desert** in the world is the Sahara.

## DESSERT

(noun) a sweet course served at the end of a meal

Fruit makes a healthy **dessert** after lunch or dinner.

## IT'S

(contraction) of it + is

**It's** a very strange dog.

## ITS

(possessive pronoun) of, belonging to, made by, or done by it

The dog will only eat **its** food when I am also eating.

## LOOSE

(adjective) not tight; giving enough room

I've lost twenty pounds, and now these jeans are really **loose**.

## LOSE

(verb) to become unable to find; to mislay; to fail to win or gain

Did you **lose** your glasses again?

How many games did your team **lose** last season?

## PRINCIPAL

(noun) a governing or presiding officer, specifically of a school; (adjective) first in rank, authority, importance, degree, etc.

The student's parents had to have a meeting with the **principal**.

## PRINCIPLE

(noun) a fundamental truth, law, doctrine, or motivating force, upon which others are based

The student's parents instilled moral **principles** in their son.

## STATIONARY

(adjective) not moving or not movable; fixed or still

I rode the **stationary** bike at the gym for an hour.

## STATIONERY

(noun) writing materials; specifically, paper and envelopes used for letters

My grandmother has given me a lot of **stationery** over the years.

I think she wants me to use it to write her.

## THEIR

(adjective) of, belonging to, made by, or done by them

They were proud of **their** work.

## THERE

(noun) that place or point

Just put it over **there**.

## THEY'RE

(contraction) of they + are

**They're** going out to dinner tonight.

## TO

(preposition) in the direction of and reaching; as far as; to the extent of

I'm going **to** Baltimore.

## TOO

(adverb) in addition; as well; besides; also; more than enough; superfluously; overly; to a regrettable extent; extremely

I'm going to Baltimore, **too**. He's **too** busy. He can't go to Baltimore.

## TWO

(adjective) the number 2

I have **two** jobs.

## WHICH

(pronoun) a particular one or ones of those mentioned or implied

Use **which** before a non-restrictive clause

(words you can change without changing the meaning of the sentence)

Grammar, **which** can be confusing, is key to learning English.

## THAT

(pronoun) something indicated

Use **that** before a restrictive clause

(words you can't change without changing the meaning of the sentence)

There is a question mark **that** clarifies the meaning.