

Words easily confused

Impress your teachers, your parents and everyone around you by using these commonly misused correctly.

Uninterested and disinterested

uninterested (adj)- An **uninterested** person is bored, unconcerned, or indifferent. Example: I am completely uninterested in knowing the difference between commonly confused words, but I want to get a good grade in my English class, so I'll pay attention.

disinterested- (adj) a **disinterested** person is impartial, unbiased, or has no stake in the outcome. Example: The referee was a **disinterested** party; his call was the correct one.

Affect and Effect

affect (verb) - to influence something. Example: Downed power line **affects** residents.

effect (noun)- the result of an influence. Example: The **effect** of persistent sleepiness is poor work. I better stop watching Netflix and go to sleep.

Effect (verb) - A government unable to **effect** any change is a government that will produce no surprises.

Farther and further

farther (adj)- use **farther** for physical distance. Example: I jog a little **farther** each day.

further (adj) -use **further**" for metaphorical, or figurative, distance. Example: I think you copied from your friend. We need to discuss this **further**.

Verbal and oral

verbal (adj)- applies to things that are put into words, whether written or spoken. Example: A person with good **verbal** skills can write a clearly and persuasively.

oral (adj)- pertains to the mouth, to medications taken by mouth, and to things that are spoken. Example: She was very particular about the **oral** hygiene of the children.

Compose and comprise-

Compose (verb) means “to be or constitute a part of element of” or “to make up or form the basis of,” as in eight slices **compose** the pie.

comprise (verb) means “to include or contain” or “to consist of” as in The pie **comprises** 8 slices.

Reluctant and reticent

reluctant (adj)- resisting, unwilling. Example: US websites are **reluctant** to remove extremist religious material because of the First Amendment to the constitution protecting free speech.

Reticent (adj)- quiet, restrained, unwilling to communicate. Example: The shy student, usually **reticent** about participating in class, surprised everyone with her passionate contribution.

Energize and enervate

energize (verb)- to give energy or strength (to someone or something.) Example: When the sleep-deprived student started his exam, he was **energized** and was able to complete it in less than an hour.

enervate- (verb)- to deprive of strength or vitality, to weaken or deplete. Example: Some students feel that too much writing will **enervate** them, leaving them empty and lifeless.

Less and fewer.

less (adj)- it is used for items that can not be counted. It is used for singular nouns. Example: I have **less** water. There is **less** gas in my tank than yours.

fewer (adj)- it is used for items that can be counted. It is used for plural nouns. I have **fewer** toys than my brother. I earned **fewer** A's this year than the last.

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