**Confusing Pairs of Words**

Many pairs of words sound alike or nearly alike, but each has a different meaning. For example, **affect** means to influence something, while **effect** means the result of something. Words like these can be easily confused with each other.

You must be careful to use the correct word from a pair of such confusing words when you are writing and speaking. If not, you may say something different than what you mean to say.

For example, you wouldn't want to embarrass yourself by addressing a letter to the administrator of your school as "Dear **Principle**." The word principle means a fundamental truth or law. You should write "Dear **Principal**." The word principal refers to the head of a school.

Here are some word pairs that are commonly confused. Learn the meanings of each of the words so that you use them correctly.

**Accept** - to take something that is given to you
**Except** - to leave out

**Altar** - a raised place used in religious services
**Alter** - to change

**Ascent** - to climb
**Assent** - to agree

**Brake** - a device for stopping or slowing a vehicle
**Break** - to come apart

**Cite** - to document
**Site** - a place

**Coarse** - rough
**Course** - moving from one point to the next

**Complement** - something that makes a thing whole or perfect
**Compliment** - to praise

**Conscience** - a sense of right and wrong
**Conscious** - state of being awake

**Descent** - coming from a higher place to a lower one
**Dissent** - to disagree

**Desert** - a dry, hot, sandy area
**Dessert** - the sweet final part of a meal

**Device** - something made for a certain purpose

**Devise** - to invent something or develop a plan

**Elicit** - to bring out
**Illicit** - illegal

**Faint** - weak
**Feint** - a movement meant to deceive

**![C:\Documents and Settings\Angie\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\2FEKGHPH\MC900089678[1].wmf]()Forth** - forward
**Fourth** - an ordinal number

**Here** - at or in a place
**Hear** - to receive sound through one's ears

**Hoard** - to save and store away
**Horde** - a very large group

**Hole** - an opening through something
**Whole** - an entire thing

**Palate** - the roof of the mouth
**Palette** - an artist's board for mixing paints

**waist**

**Peace** - absence of fighting
**Piece** - a portion of something

**![C:\Documents and Settings\Angie\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\62IPQI72\MC900234146[1].wmf]()Plain** - clearly seen, heard, or understood
**Plane** - a flat surface

**Pore** - a very small opening in the skin
**Pour** - to cause something to flow

**Precede** - to come before
**Proceed** - to go forward

**Shear** - to cut the wool off a sheep
**Sheer** - so thin you can see through it

**waste**

**Stationary** - to stand still
**Stationery** - writing paper

**Waist** - the part of the human body between the ribs and the hips
**Waste** - to use or spend carelessly; garbage material

**Weak** - without strength
**Week** - a period of seven days

**OTHER PAIRS**

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**Don't be CONFUSED! Learn the meanings of these words to use them correctly.**