

Commonly Confused Words

Pick the right one every time

affect / effect

- affect = to change something
- effect = the result

its / it's

- its = belongs to it
- it's = it is

their / there / they're

- their = belongs to them
- there = a place
- they're = they are

your / you're

- your = belongs to you
- you're = you are

to / too / two

- to = toward, or used before a verb
- too = also, or more than needed
- two = the number 2

then / than

- then = next, or at that time
- than = used to compare

lose / loose

- lose = to misplace, or not win
- loose = not tight

accept / except

- accept = to receive
- except = other than, leaving out

principal / principle

- principal = head of a school, or main
- principle = a rule or belief

who's / whose

- who's = who is
- whose = belongs to whom

stationary / stationery

- stationary = not moving
- stationery = paper and pens (e for envelope)

complement / compliment

- complement = completes something
- compliment = praise

Tip: When unsure, say the sentence with the meaning in place of the word. If it still makes sense, you have the right one.