

# Commonly Confused Pair of Words in English Language

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**Accept** - The Prime Minister accepted the suggestion of the opposition parties.

**Except**- All ministers except the Railway Minister were present in the meeting.

**#27**

**Envelope**-The fire will envelop the whole village if not controlled now.

**Envelope**- Send this envelope by registered post.

**#28.**

**Gate**- The main gate of the school was closed today, so, I presented it was a holiday.

**Gait**- I can recognize him by his gait.

**#29.**

**Fain**- My friend would fain have helped me.

**Feign**- He feigned madness in order to escape.

**#30.**

**Naughty**- Your son is always upto some naughty tricks at school.

**Knotty**- A knotty problem that appeared in the Geometry paper puzzled me.

**#31.**

**Yoke**- Put the bullocks to the yoke.

The farmer yokes a pair of horses.

**Yolk**- Separate the yolk from the white of the egg.

**#32.**

**Gamble**- Recently, he has started gambling besides drinking.

**Gambol**- The rabbits are known for their gambol.

**#33.**

**Latter**- The shopkeeper showed a red sari and a pink sari, I preferred the latter.

**Later**- She came later than Sangeeta for the party.

**Letter**- It is a month since I received a letter from my sister.

**#34.**

**Angle**- All the angles of this triangle are equal.

**Angel**- A known devil is better than an unknown angel.

**#35.**

**Deny**- He denied that he had copied.

**Refuse**- Why do you refuse to help me?

**#36.**

**Alien-** Their ideas are Quite alien to my way of thinking.

**Align-** We must align Ourselves with the nation-builders.

**#37.**

**Eminent-** Ravi Shanker is an eminent sitarist.

**Imminent-** A feud between the two brothers is imminent after their father's death.

**#38.**

**Team-** The performance of our hockey team is getting better.

**Teem-** The book teams with beautiful illustrations.

**#39.**

**Abstain-** You will have to abstain from fatty foods till your liver starts functioning normally.

**Refrain-** I hope he will refrain from speaking ill of others.

**#40.**

**Continual-** I cannot do any work at home because of the continual disturbances.

**Continuous-** His name was struck off the rolls because of his continuous absence.

**#41.**

**Recover-** The patient will take some time to recover from this setback.

**Re-cover-** The dead body of the patriot was re-covered with the tri-coloured flag.

**#42.**

**Sickness-** Her sickness will not last long.

**Sickliness-** Her sickliness may prove to be a life-long malady.

**#43.**

**Pair-** I like this pair of trousers very much.

**Pare-** Will you kindly pare off the apple?

**#44.**

**Stationary-** The earth is not stationary. It moves round the sun.

**Stationery** – Children went to purchases their stationery at the beginning of the year.

**#45.**

**Physics-** He is doing his doctorate in Physics.

**Physique-** He maintains a strong physique.

**#46.**

**Led-** Pundit Nehru led the Indians during the freedom Struggle.

**Lead-** Lead is a metal used for printing.

**#47.**

**Disease-** He is suffering from a chronic disease.

**Decease-** The child was rendered helpless on the decease of his parents.

**#48.**

**Meet-** Brahmins are not supposed to eat meat.

**Mete-** We were very unhappy about the treatment metal out to us at the wedding party.

**Mete-** We were very unhappy about the treatment meted out to us at the wedding party.

**#49.**

**Quite-** I was quite happy to get a first division.

**Quiet-**The teacher asked the students to keep quiet.

**#50.**

**Obvious-** It is obvious from his behavior that he is selfish.

**Oblivious-** The sitarist was so immersed In his sitar that he seemed oblivious of all the people watching him.

**#51.**

**Dose-**The doctor has asked me to take a dose of this medicine twice a day.

**Doze-**having sat late at night, he was dozing in the examination hall.

**#52.**

**Story-** The child wanted his mother to tell him a story.

**Storey-** On which storey of this building do you live?

**#53.**

**Scene-** Rakesh made quite a scene at the college today.

**Seen-** Have you seen the Ajanta and Ellora caves?

**#54.**

**Alter-** We make offerings to the Gods at the altar.

**Alter-** Once I take a decision. I am not likely to alter it.

**#55.**

**Dear-** She is very dear to me.

Petrol has becomes a dear commodity of life.

**Deer-** This jungle abounds in deer.

**#56.**

**Former-** Saurav Ganguly is the former capitan of the Indian Cricket team.

**Farmer-** Farmer is ploughing the field.

**#57.**

**Mail-** Will you mail this letter immediately?

I would be travelling by Frontier mail.

**Male-** No male member is allowed to stay with the patient.

**#58.**

**Root-** The root gives strength to the tree.

**Rout-** The Mughal army was badly routed.

**Rcute** – I took a different route to reach here today.

**#59.**

**Fair-** (i) The bride is of fair complexion.

(ii) We expect the Judge to be fair in his judgement.

**Fare-** The railway fares have gone up with effect from 1st of April.

**#60.**

**Pain-** It is easy to beat physical pain rather than mental agony.

**Pane-** The boys while playing cricket broke the window pane.

**#61.**

**Main-** What is the main cause for inflation?

**Mane-** The lion seemed to be proud of his mane.

**#62.**

**Read-** It is important to read one's lesson many times.

**Reed-** He writes with a reed pen.

**#63.**

**Way-** Can you tell me the way to the nearest petrol pump?

**Weigh-** The oranges weigh 4 kilograms.

**#64.**

**Air-** A balloon filled with hot air goes up the sky.

**Heir-** The king's eldest son is heir to the throne.

**#65.**

**Corporal-** I am against corporal punishment to children.

**Corporeal-** Heavenly beings are not corporeal.

**#66.**

**Liar-** Do not believe him, he is a liar.

**Lawyer-** My uncle is an eminent lawyer.

**#67.**

**Metal-** Silver is a precious metal.

**Mettle-** Gandhiji was a man of mettle and so was respected by everyone.

**#68.**

**Sore-** His eyes are sore. **Sour-** The grapes are sour.

**#69.**

**Corps-** My brother has joined in the National Cadet Corps.

**Corpse-** His corpse was carried to the cremation ground with military honours.

**#70.**

**Differ-** I have to differ with you on this matter.

**Defer-** he has deferred his decision to resign for some time.

**#71.**

**Affect-** Smoking affects the lungs badly.

He affects to be innocent.

**Effect-** The old man's advice had no effect on the boy.

The convict effected his escape from jail at midnight.

**#72.**

**Minor-** He has no voting right because he is still a minor.

**Miner-** In the bomb explosion, at least twelve miners lost their lives.

**#73.**

**Blue** – Blue is his favourite colour.

**Blew-** The referee blew his whistle and the game was up.

**#74.**

**Bore-** The teacher bored the students.

**Boar-** A boar is a wild animal.

**#75.**

**Moral-** The moral of the story is --- Look before you leap.

**Morale-** His inspired performance boosted up the morale of the team.

**#76.**

**Stairs-** I fractured my leg when I slipped while climbing the stairs.

**Stare-** He has got a habit of staring a people.

**#77.**

**Dual-** There re forty dual in this classroom.

**Duel-** It was a matter of Prestige. So, they decided to settle it with a duel.

**#78.**

**Check-** You must check your expenses before it is too late.

**Cheque-** He signed a blank cheque and asked me to fill the amount.

**#79.**

**Assay-** This ore assays high in gold.

**Essay-** His essays on “ trends in Modern Society’ won the first prize.

**#80.**

**Advice-** I asked the doctor for his advice.

**Advise-** The doctor advised me to take proper rest.

**#81.**

**Ail-** What ails thee, gentle lord?

**Ale-** Ale houses have been closed in Pakistan.

**#82.**

**Aspire-** All aspire after worldly pleasure.

**Expire-** His father expired only last month.

**#83.**

**Avocation** - Writing articles for magazines is her avocation.

**Vocation-** His vocations is teachings.

**#84.**

**Allay-** Your present statement has allayed my fears.

**Alley-** There are many alleys in old Delhi.

**Alloy-** An alloy is a metal made by mixing two or more different metals.

**#85.**

**Amiable-** His amiable manners win him respect everywhere.

**Amicable-** India and Pakistan have been trying for an amicable settlement on the border issue.

**#86.**

**Beneficial-** His holiday has had a beneficial effect.

**Beneficent-**He is a beneficent patron of our organisation.

**#87.**

**Childish-** His childish behavior has annoyed many people.

**Childlike-** An honest man usually has a childlike qualities.

**#88.**

**Complement-** His honesty complements his simplicity.

**Compliment-** Mohan presented a book to his friend with compliments.

**#89.**

**Official-** According to official sources, there is an increase in this year's food production.

**Officious-** His officious attitude towards his subordinates has made him unpopular.

**#90.**

**Roll-** Many years have rolled by since I joined the organization.

**Role-** She played the role of Maria in 'Sound of Music'.

### #91.

**Sail-** Let us go for a sail this afternoon.

**Sell-** Bad news sells newspaper.

**Sale-** Every company organizes an off-season sale in September and October.

### #92.

**Suite-** Please reserve a suite for me in the Taj.

**Suit-** If you don't make payment tomorrow, I will file a suit against you.

The climate of India does not suit me.

His woolen suit is imported from Canada.

### #93.

**Steal-** One who steals my money steals a trash; one who steals my name steals everything.

**Steel-** steel is an alloy.

**Still** – The room was a still at the end of the speech. I have still to find out the truth.

### #94.

**Tenor-** I understand the tenor of his speech but not the details.

**Tenure-** During his tenure, he introduced many reformative measures.

### #95.

**Tell-** I will tell a tale about a tail.

**Tale-** Life is a tale told by an idiot.

**Tail-** The comet of 1841 A.D grew a tail which went 198,000,000 miles in space.

### #96.

**Umpire-** The players refused to obey the umpire.

**Empire-** Mahatma Gandhi rang the death- knell of the British empire.

### #97.

**Veil-** The thief escaped under the veil of the darkness.

**Vale-** The vale of Kashmir is a paradise on earth.

### #98.

**Access-** Students need easy access to books.

**Accession-** His accessions to the throne, marked the beginnings of a new era.

**Excess-** Excess of anything is bad.

### #99.

**Accident-** He met with a serious accident.

**Incident-** In a recent incident, two bombs exploded.

**#100.**

**Addicted-** he is addicted to drugs.

**Devoted-** She is devoted to her studies.

**#101.**

**Allusion-** her writing is full of obscure literary allusions.

**Illusion-** Life is an illusion.

**#102.**

**Artist-** A painter is an artist.

**Artisan-** A carpenter is an artisan.

**Artiste-** She is being trained for singing by a professional artist.

**#103.**

**Apposite-** His remarks on that occasion were not very apposite.

**Opposite-** Black and white are opposites.

**#104.**

**Battle-** I can't always white are opposites.

**War-** During World War II, many battles were fought.

**Fight-** One should always fight for one's right.

**#105.**

**Major-** The play is a major success.

**Measure-** An hour is a measure of time.

**#106.**

**Confess-** I must confess, I hated their attitude.

**Admit-** The facts admit no other explanation.

**#107.**

**Conscious** – I am conscious of my weakness.

**Conscientious-** he is a conscientious worker.

**#108.**

**Crime-** It is the job of the police to prevent crime.

**Vice-** In spite of the presence of the police, there's always a certain amount of vice in all big cities.

**#109.**

**Discover-** Columbus discovered America.

**Invent-** Watt invented the steam engine.

**#110.**



**Disinterested-** She seems completely disinterested in her work.

**Uninterested-** One should not be uninterested in one's work.

**#111.**

**Drown-** He drowned himself in work.

**Sink-** His voice sank to a whisper.

**#112.**

**Elicit-** By cross- examination, he elicited the truth at last.

**Illicit-** He is involved in an illicit trade of drugs.

**#113.**

**Eminent-** He is an eminent scientist.

**Imminent-** War is imminent.

**#114.**

**Eruption-** That volcano is in a state of eruption.

**Irruption-** That violent irruption of soldiers into the building was condemned by all.

**#115.**

**Fetch-** Please, fetch me a clean handkerchief from my bedroom.

**Bring-** Please, bring me the book.

**#116.**

**Formalism-** I have no love for official formalism.

**Formality-** In Delhi, people are more after formality rather than developing genuine relationship.

**#117.**

**Jealous-** A jealous man can never be happy.

**Zealous-** He is a zealous intellectual.

**#118.**

**Liberty-** French revolution was for liberty, fraternity and equality of all people.

**Freedom-** In my bondage, is my freedom.

**#119.**

**Loose-** The animals broke loose and left the field.

**Lose-** He often loses his temper.

**#120.**

**Lovable-** He is a man of a lovable nature.

**Lovely-** Aishwarya Roy is a lovely actress.

**#121.**

**Memorable-** No one can ever forget her memorable beauty.

**Memorial-** Shah Jahan erected a memorial in the memory of his wife.

**#122.**

**Popular-** This design has always been popular.

**Populous-** Kolkata is a populous city.

**#123.**

**Principal-** He is the principal of the college.

**Principle-** One should stick to one's principles.

**#124.**

**Sensitive-** A sensitive person is one whose feelings are easily hurt.

**Sensible-** A sensible person is one who possesses commonsense or intelligence.

**#125.**

**Vacant-** A mind vacant is a mind distresses.

**Empty-** Empty vessels sound much.

**#126.**

**Spirituous-** One should abstain from spirituous liquors.

**Spiritual-** I believe in a spiritual life.

**#127.**

**Breath-** His breath smelt of garlic.

**Breathe-** The team breathed confidence before the match.

**#128.**

**Species-** It is a rare specify of beetle.

**Specify-** The regulations specify that calculators may not be used in the examination.

**#129.**

**Noble-** He died for a noble cause.

**Novel-** He loves reading romantic novels.

**#130.**

**Weak-** her eyesight is rather weak.

**Week-** He comes to see us once a week.

**#131.**

**Wicked-** That was a wicked thing to do.

**Wicked-** Pakistan lost the match by five wickets.