

Easily Confused Words

When you revise, make sure you've used the right word, not its homophone, or some close, but distorted version of the word. Spell checker and grammar checker won't catch many of these usage errors, especially when you correctly spell the wrong word. And if you misspell a word, spell check will offer you a substitute, but you should use a dictionary to **confirm that the substitute is the right word**, not just a correctly-spelled word that resembles the word you're looking for. If you have any doubts about the word, consult a **dictionary**, which will help you to distinguish between easily confused words.

Some of the more common easily confused words

affect/effect

less/fewer

there/their/they're lo ,

4. For most **easily confused words with apostrophes**, remember that they are likely contractions, so say the two words out in their entirety. Don't say *it's*; say *it is*. Don't say *who's*; say *who is*.

5. who's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. She's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. He's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. It's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. They're not a contraction; it's a pronoun. There's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. Who's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. What's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. How's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. Why's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. Where's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. When's not a contraction; it's a pronoun. How often do you use these words? Do you use them correctly? Do you use them incorrectly? Do you use them at all? Do you use them often? Do you use them rarely? Do you use them never? Do you use them always? Do you use them sometimes? Do you use them often? Do you use them rarely? Do you use them never? Do you use them always? Do you use them sometimes?

9. Yesterday, one of my friends, Henry Hunderfunde, (who/whom) came from Germany, told me about his Nazi grandparents.
10. I want to know (who/whom) you've been texting and calling at three in the morning!
11. He is on a team (who/that) tends to win the championship every year.
12. She is the person (who/that) found my lost wallet.
13. I can't believe that you (throughout/threw out) the tickets to the Broadway show. They cost me \$250. Damn!
14. (Throughout/Threw out) my life, I've been puzzled by the distinction between less and fewer.
15. If I had eaten (less/fewer) dinner, I would have (less/fewer) calories to burn.
16. There are more PhDs on our faculty, but (less/fewer) good teachers.
17. (Their/They're/There) is going to be a party at (their/they're/there) house tonight.
18. I hope that (their/they're/there) not upset about my failure to be (their/they're/there) on time.
19. I hope you don't (loose/lose) your mind.
20. Your laces are (loose/lose). Tie them so that you don't trip.
21. Are you a person of (principal/principle)?
22. The (principal/principle) reason we chose you as (principal/principle) of the school is that you have (principals/principles).
23. (It's/Its) a rash that is likely the result of a tick bite or bed bugs.
24. I hope that (it's/its) paws haven't been injured by that broken glass.
25. He is (defiantly/definitely) not allowed to hang out with us.
26. She has been (definitely/defiantly) refusing to follow the company policies.

27. What values have been transmitted (between/among) those two generations of Americans?
28. David, (between/among) the greatest of all students, studied late into the night in order to earn good grades.
29. How were you (affected/effected) by the storm?
- 30.