If you know the differences? You can use this as quiz to test your friends too!

1. **affect / effect**

Examples:

affect: The bad weather affects my mood.

effect: The president effected several changes in the company.

1. **alibi / excuse**

Examples:

alibi: The police broke her alibi by proving she knew how to shoot a pistol.

excuse: I can't buy his excuse.

1. **alternatives / choices**

Examples:

alternatives: New ways to treat arthritis may provide an alternative to painkillers.

choices: Our choices come down to staying here or leaving here.

1. **anticipate / expect**

Examples:

anticipate: What Jeff did was to anticipate my next question.

expect: I expect that the weather will be nice.

1. **flagrant / blatant**

Examples:

flagrant: The judge called the decision "a flagrant violation of international law."

blatant: Outsiders will continue to suffer the most blatant discrimination.

1. **chronic / acute / severe**

Examples:

chronic: For those with chronic depression, she said, "keep at it."

acute: Acute dysentery wracked and sapped life from his body.

1. **compose / comprise**

Examples:

compose: England, Scotland and Wales compose the island of Great Britain.

comprise: After the 2014 referendum on independence for Scotland, the UK still comprised England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

1. **continual / continuous**

Examples:

continual: “No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual war,” Madison concluded.

continuous: Continuous farming impoverishes the soil.

1. **crescendo / climax**

Examples:

crescendo: She spoke in a crescendo: "You are a bad girl! You are a wicked girl! You are evil!"

climax: The fifth scene was the climax of the play.

1. **decimate / destroy**

Examples:

decimate: Famine decimated the population.

destroy: The soldiers destroyed the village.

1. **dilemma / problem**

Examples:

dilemma: Many women are faced with the dilemma of choosing between work and family commitments.

problem: The problem of street crime is getting worse every year.

1. **disinterested / uninterested**

Examples:

disinterested: A lawyer should provide disinterested advice.

uninterested: He was uninterested in politics.

1. **entomb / trap**

Examples:

entomb: The city was entombed in volcanic lava.

trap: The train was trapped underground by a fire.

1. **flotsam / jetsam**

Examples:

flotsam: The water was full of flotsam and refuse.

jetsam: The smallest bits of jetsam, like the most transient incidents in a life, can be the most evocative.

1. **forego / forgo**

Examples:

forego: So she did his bidding and gave him the cup, which no sooner had he drunk than his head forewent his feet.

forgo: Sometimes this priority shift means you have to forgo one goal in exchange for another.

1. **gourmet / gourmand**

Examples:

gourmet: Food critics have to be gourmets in order to write about food in an informed way.

gourmand: He's the kind of gourmand who swallows food without even pausing to taste.

1. **inchoate / incoherent**

Examples:

inchoate: She had a child's inchoate awareness of language.

incoherent: The talk she gave was incoherent and badly prepared.

1. **incumbent(noun.) / incumbent (adj.)**

Examples:

incumbent(noun.) : The incumbent president faces problems which began many years before he took office.

incumbent (adj.): She felt it was incumbent on herself to act immediately.

1. **inflammable / flammable**

Examples:

inflammable: Petrol is a highly inflammable liquid.

flammable: This solvent is flammable.

1. **insidious / invidious**

Examples:

insidious: Cancer is an insidious disease.

invidious: The boss made invidious distinctions between employees.

1. **judicial / judicious**

Examples:

judicial: a judicial enquiry

judicious: We should make judicious use of the resources available to us.

1. **less / fewer**

Examples:

less: We must try to spend less money.

fewer: Fewer people smoke these days than used to.

1. **litigate / dodge**

Examples:

litigate: The case is still being litigated.

dodge: He dodged the bullet.

1. **luxuriant / luxurious**

Examples:

luxuriant: Tall, luxuriant plants grew along the river bank.

luxurious: They have a very luxurious house.

1. **prescribe / proscribe**

Examples:

prescribe: The doctor prescribed his patient who was down with fever.

proscribe: The sale of narcotics is proscribed by law.

1. **refugee / migrant**

Examples:

refugee: Refugees were pouring across the frontier.

migrant: The government divides asylum seekers into economic migrants and genuine refugees.

1. **replica / reproduction**

Examples:

replica: Replica is the more valuable, for it is supposed to be more beautiful.

reproduction: This is a reproduction of a popular religious painting.

1. **sceptic / denier**

Examples:

sceptic: The sceptic may argue that there are no grounds for such optimism.

denier: He is a denier of harsh realities.

1. **transpire / happen**

Examples:

transpire: Later, it transpired she had failed the examination.

happen: 'It just happened.' she said, after failing her exam.

1. **viable / feasible**

Examples:

viable: Cash alone will not make Eastern Europe's banks viable.

feasible: She questioned whether it was feasible to stimulate investment in these regions.

1. **31 (bonus). viral / viral**

Examples:

viral: I can't believe that video of our puppy lounging on a pool float went viral!

viral: Some viral proteins do good.