

2.2 - Words Often Confused

Take a look at these two sentences:

1. I will *accept* your assignment.
2. We work out every day *except* Saturday.

Accept and *except* might sound similar, but have different meanings. In the first sentence, *accept* refers to receiving the assignment willingly. In the second sentence, *except* refers to the action of working out on all other days apart from Saturday.

There are a lot of words in English that look or sound alike but have very different meanings, such as *pore* and *pour*, *flaunt* and *flout*.

Let's look at words that sound similar but have different meanings and are greatly confusing.

Word	Meaning	Example
accede	consent	I cannot accede to your request.
exceed	surpass	Her expenditure exceeds her income.
advise (verb)	counsel	Please advise her what to do.
advice (noun)	guidance	an opinion or a suggestion about what somebody should do in a particular situation.
alternate	every other	The doctor visits this village every alternate week.
alternative	choice between two	The thief has no alternative but to surrender to the police.
affect	to influence	Bad weather affects his health.
effect	result	The medicine that I took for stomach ache had no effect.
allusion	indirect reference	I could not fully understand the allusions to Japan.
illusion	an imaginary appearance	A mirage is an optical illusion.
aught	anything	For aught I know he is innocent.
ought	should	We ought to respect our parents and teachers.
bail	security	He was released on bail.
bale	bundle	Hundred bales of cotton were burnt.
berth	a sleeping place in a train or a ship	I got a berth reserved for me in the first compartment.
birth	the act of being born	She gave birth to a child.

conscious	aware about something happening	The old man was conscious that the stranger was trying to cheat him.
conscience	sense to judge right or wrong	My conscience told me that I should tell the truth to father about having lost my new mobile.
decent	well-behaved and respectable	She is a decent woman.
descent	slope	They began the long descent, hand in hand.
deny	to declare untrue	He denies that he has beaten his friend.
refuse	not to do	She refused to go to the market.
defer	to postpone	The meeting had to be differed because most of the members were absent.
dessert	a sweet eaten after a meal	I would like a piece of chocolate for dessert.
desert	a dry, sandy land	The desert is a sandy land.
elude	to escape	He cleverly eluded the police.
allude	to refer to	Which is the boy you alluded in your speech?
farther	actual distance	It is farther from Delhi to Chennai than it is from Delhi to Mumbai.
further	something additional in thought	They discussed the matter further.
famous	wildly known	Sachin Tendulkar is one of the famous cricket players.
notorious	of evil reputation	Many notorious terrorists have been caught and punished recently.
graceful	pleasing	We were pleased by the graceful movement of the dancer.
gracious	kind and polite	It was gracious of the loser to congratulate the winner.
hear	to register sound though the ears	I love to hear beautiful music.
here	represents place	It is lovely to be here in the sunshine.
hole	an empty place or opening	A hole opened up in the garden.
whole	complete, entire	I ate the whole chocolate bar.
knew	it is the past tense of know	I knew I left my mobile somewhere in the living room.
new	fresh, recent	I am going to buy a new car.
loose	not fastened	His shoelaces were loose.
lose	to be unable to find or to not win	I lose whenever I play chess.
tamper	to meddle with	Someone has tampered with the seal of this packet.
temper	disposition	Don't loose your temper unnecessarily.

through	from one side to the other	Soldiers were marching through the fields.
threw	past tense of throw	He threw the ball yesterday.
stair	a series of steps leading from one level to another	A flight of stairs led me to an elegantly furnished flat.
stare	to look for a very long time	She continued to stare at her friend.
union	combination	Union is strength.
unity	oneness	Unity is the need of the hour.
vale	valley	Steep rocky hills enclose the vale.
veil	a covering	The bride wore a veil with a wreath of silk flowers.
wail	cry in a loud voice	The man was wailing out of pain.
whale	a very large sea animal	There are varieties of whales.
yolk	the yellow part of an egg	My sister does not like to eat egg yolk but relishes the egg white.
yoke	a wooden frame put round the neck of an animal so that it can pull a cart	The bull's yoke was new and had beads attached to it.

Some More Words often Confused

⌘ alter: to change.

altar: a sacred table in a church.

⌘ a long: referring to something of great length.

along: moving or extending horizontally on.

⌘ advice: recommendations about what to do.

advise: to recommend something.

⌘ affect: to change or make a difference to.

effect: a result; to bring about a result.

⌘ except: not including.

accept: to agree to receive or do.

⌘ canvas: a type of strong cloth.

canvass: to seek people's votes.

⌘ chord: a group of musical notes.

cord: a length of string; a cord-like body part.

⌘ born: having started life.

borne: carried by.

⌘ appraise: to assess.

apprise: to inform someone.

- ⌘ aural: relating to the ears or hearing.
- oral: relating to the mouth; spoken.
- ⌘ bazaar: a middle-eastern market.
- bizarre: something strange.
- ⌘ brake: a device for stopping a vehicle; to stop a vehicle.
- break: to separate into pieces; a pause.
- ⌘ berth: a bunk in a ship, train.
- birth: the time when a baby is born.
- ⌘ council: a group of people who manage or advise.
- counsel: advice; to advise.
- ⌘ dual: having two parts.
- duel: a fight or contest between two people.
- ⌘ currant: a dried grape.
- current: happening now; a flow of water, air, or electricity.
- ⌘ complement: an addition that improves something.
- compliment: to praise or express approval; an admiring remark.
- ⌘ cue: a signal for action; a wooden rod.
- queue: a line of people or vehicles.
- ⌘ coarse: something rough.
- course: a direction; a school subject or part of a meal.
- ⌘ complacent: smug and self-satisfied.
- complaisant: an addition that improves something.
- ⌘ draft: a first version of a piece of writing.
- draught: a flow of cool air.
- ⌘ dessert: the sweet course of a meal.
- desert: a waterless, empty area; to abandon someone.
- ⌘ ensure: to make certain that something will happen.
- insure: to provide compensation if a person dies or a property is damaged.
- ⌘ envelop: to cover or surround.
- envelope: a paper container for a letter.
- ⌘ flaunt: to display lavishly.
- flout: to disregard a rule.
- ⌘ foreword: an introduction to a book.
- forward: onwards, ahead.
- ⌘ freeze: to turn to ice.
- frieze: a decoration along a wall.
- ⌘ loose: to unfasten; to set free.
- lose: to be deprived of; to be unable to find.
- ⌘ meter: a measuring device.
- metre: a metric unit; rhythm inverse.
- ⌘ palate: the roof of the mouth.
- palette: a board for mixing colours.

⌘ pole: a long, slender piece of wood.
poll: voting in an election.

⌘ principal: most important; the head of a school.
principle: a fundamental rule or belief.

⌘ sceptic: a person inclined to doubt.
septic: infected with bacteria.
⌘ stationary: not moving.
stationery: writing materials.

2.3 Technical Terms and One-Word Substitutes

Technical Terms:

1. Hybrid app: A hybrid app is a combination of a native app and a web app.
2. Native app: A native app is a software program that works on a specific platform.
3. Cloud computing: Cloud computing is a method of storing data across remote servers instead of on a local computer.
4. Version control: Version control is a program that tracks code or file changes to a website or app, allowing users to restore earlier versions.
5. Padding: Padding is the space between an element's border and content.
6. Algorithm: An algorithm is a set of instructions for a program.
7. Big data: Big data is a set of data that's too large for a traditional processing system to handle.
8. Data architecture: Data architecture is the structure that an organization has to collect, store and use its information.
9. Database: A database is a collection of information that is easily accessible by computers.
10. Colour theory: Colour theory is a set of guidelines designers use to create visually appealing colour combinations.
11. Colour value: Colour value is a colour's shade or hue.
12. Grid system: The grid system contains a set of rows and columns for arranging content on a website.
13. Data mining: Data mining is the practice of analysing consumer behaviours to optimize marketing campaigns.

14. Email marketing: Email marketing is the practice of sending emails to potential and current customers.
15. Growth hacking: Growth hacking is using technology, analytics and product development to grow a company's audience.
16. Website optimization: Website optimization is the practice of improving a site's ability to rank in search engines and appeal to users
17. Flash memory: Flash memory is a computer storage chip that is easily re-programmable.
18. Hardware: Hardware refers to the physical parts of a computer.
19. Input device: An input device is a piece of equipment that controls or provides to a computer.
20. Hybrid app: A hybrid app is a combination of a native app and a web app.
21. Cloud computing: Cloud computing is a method of storing data across remote servers instead of on a local computer.
22. Virtual machine (VM): A virtual machine is software that allows you to use one computer operating system with another.
23. Virtual private network (VPN): A VPN is a network that allows you to use public Internet connections as private networks.
24. Typeface: Typeface is the style of a font.
25. Type hierarchy: A type hierarchy is a system for organizing type on a web page, usually designating fonts for headings and subheadings.
26. API (Application Programming Interface): An API is a set of tools that allows one piece of software to communicate with another.
27. UX (User Experience): UX is the overall experience a user has when interacting with a product or service.
28. UI (User Interface): UI is the space where interactions between humans and machines occur, such as buttons, icons, and menus.
29. Responsive Design: Responsive design is the method of making web pages look good on different devices by automatically adjusting layout.
30. Blockchain: Blockchain is a decentralized digital ledger that records transactions across many computers.
31. Machine Learning: Machine learning is a type of artificial intelligence where computers learn from data without explicit programming.

32. Open-Source Software: Open-source software is software with publicly available source code that anyone can use or modify.
33. Malware: Malware is any software designed to harm or exploit a computer system.
34. Phishing: Phishing is a fraudulent attempt to steal sensitive information, often through deceptive emails or websites.
35. Bandwidth: Bandwidth refers to the maximum amount of data that can be transmitted over an internet connection in a given time.
36. Encryption: Encryption is the process of converting data into a code to prevent unauthorized access.
37. Firewalls: A firewall is a security system that monitors and controls incoming and outgoing network traffic based on security rules.
38. Cache: A cache is a temporary storage area that stores frequently accessed data to speed up future access.
39. Cookies: Cookies are small files stored on a user's device by websites to track information like login status or preferences.
40. DNS (Domain Name System): DNS is a system that translates human-readable domain names into IP addresses.
41. HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol): HTTP is the foundation of communication for the web, used to transfer web pages from servers to browsers.
42. HTTPS: HTTPS is the secure version of HTTP, providing encrypted communication for secure data transfer.
43. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language): HTML is the standard language used to create and design web pages.
44. CSS (Cascading Style Sheets): CSS is used to style and layout web pages, controlling the look and feel of a site.
45. JavaScript: JavaScript is a programming language commonly used to create interactive effects on websites.
46. Bootstrap: Bootstrap is a front-end framework used for designing responsive web pages.
47. Git: Git is a version control system for tracking changes in source code during software development.
48. Repository: A repository is a central location where data, often source code, is stored and managed.

49. Agile Methodology: Agile is a project management framework used in software development that focuses on iterative progress and flexibility.
50. Scrum: Scrum is an Agile framework used to manage and complete projects in small, iterative chunks called sprints.
51. SaaS (Software as a Service): SaaS is a software delivery model where users access applications over the internet rather than downloading them.
52. PaaS (Platform as a Service): PaaS is a cloud computing model that provides a platform for developers to build, test, and deploy applications.
53. IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service): IaaS is a cloud computing model that provides virtualized computing resources over the internet.
54. DevOps: DevOps is a set of practices that combines software development (Dev) and IT operations (Ops) to shorten the system development lifecycle.
55. Microservices: Microservices are an architectural style that structures an application as a collection of small, independent services.
56. Latency: Latency is the delay between a user's action and the response from a server.
57. Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems.
58. Edge Computing: Edge computing refers to processing data near the source of data generation rather than relying on a centralized server.
59. Cybersecurity: Cybersecurity refers to the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from digital attacks.
60. Deep Learning: Deep learning is a subset of machine learning involving neural networks with many layers, used for complex tasks like image or speech recognition.
61. Augmented Reality (AR): AR is an interactive experience where digital elements are overlaid on the real world, usually through a device like a smartphone.
62. Virtual Reality (VR): VR is a simulated experience that can be similar to or completely different from the real world, typically using a headset.
63. Quantum Computing: Quantum computing uses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform computations much faster than traditional computers.
64. Content Management System (CMS): A CMS is software that helps users create, manage, and modify digital content without needing specialized technical knowledge.

65. Load Balancer: A load balancer distributes network or application traffic across multiple servers to ensure no single server is overwhelmed.
66. Ethernet: Ethernet is a technology for connecting devices in a wired local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN).
67. IP Address: An IP address is a unique string of numbers assigned to every device connected to the internet for identification and communication purposes.
68. Virtualization: Virtualization is the process of creating virtual versions of physical hardware, such as servers, storage, and networks.
69. SSL (Secure Sockets Layer): SSL is a security protocol that establishes encrypted links between a web server and a browser, ensuring that data passed between them remains private.
70. Tokenization: Tokenization is the process of converting sensitive data, such as credit card numbers, into unique identification symbols (tokens) that retain all the essential information without compromising security.

One-Word Substitutes

ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION	GENERIC WORD
A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one	Allegory
An annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information such as astronomical data and tide tables	Almanac
A statement or proposition on which an abstractly defined structure is based	Axiom
The action or offence of speaking sacrilegiously about God or Sacred things; profane talk	Blasphemy
A vigorous campaign for political, social or religious change	Crusade
Lasting for a short time	Ephemeral
Release someone from a duty or obligation	Exonerate
Fond of company	Gregarious
Incapable of making mistakes or being wrong	Infallible
Certain to happen	Inevitable
Excessively concerned with minor details or rules	Pedantic

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own	Plagiarism
A position requiring little or no work but giving the holder status or financial benefit	Sinecure
A thing that is kept as reminder of a person, place or event	Souvenir
An imaginary ideal society free of poverty and suffering	Utopia
In exactly the same words as were used originally	Verbatim
A set of instructions given to a computer to perform a specific task	Algorithm
The process of extracting valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth	Mining
A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction	Catalyst
A person who pretends to be someone they are not	Imposter
The ability to use both hands with equal skill	Ambidexterity
The fear of public speaking	Glossophobia
A brief, witty saying or remark	Epigram
The act of avoiding work or responsibility	Procrastination
A person who is excessively concerned with their appearance	Vanity
The act of seeking to harm or overthrow one's government	Treason
A person who is skilled in many different areas	Polymath
The practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats	Extortion
The act of speaking or writing in a roundabout way	Circumlocution
A person who pretends to be virtuous or moral	Hypocrite
The practice of obtaining information by asking questions	Interrogation
A person who is excessively concerned with their own interests	Egomaniac
The practice of being frugal and saving money	Thrift
A person who is skilled in the use of words	Orator
The practice of deceiving or misleading others	Deception

A person who is skilled in the art of negotiation	Diplomat
A person who studies the history of words and their origins	Etymologist
A person who is excessively concerned with their health	Hypochondriac
The practice of using humor to criticize or mock someone or something	Satire
The act of speaking or writing in a way that is difficult to understand	Obscurity
A person who is excessively concerned with their own success	Ambitious
The practice of making amends for a wrong or injury	Atonement
A person who is excessively concerned with cleanliness	Germaphobe
The fear of closed or confined spaces	Claustrophobia
The act of making something more attractive through the use of design	Beautification
A person who is excessively fond of books	Bibliophile
The act of promoting harmony and cooperation among different groups	Diplomacy
The act of speaking or writing in a way that exaggerates or overstates	Hyperbole
A person who is excessively concerned with material possessions	Materialistic
The act of making something more modern or up-to-date	Modernization
A person who is excessively concerned with their own pleasure and indulgence	Hedonist
The act of speaking or writing in a way that is vague or unclear	Ambiguity
A person who is excessively concerned with their own opinions and ideas	Dogmatist
The act of speaking or writing in a way that is overly critical or harsh	Criticism
The act of making something more suitable for a particular audience	Customization
What is the term for the practice of reducing the size of a company's workforce to cut costs?	Downsizing
What is the term for the act of formally ending employment with a company?	Termination
What is the term for the process of hiring employees for a job or position within a company?	Recruitment
What is the term for a person who is authorized to act on behalf of another person or organization in legal or financial matters?	Proxy
What is the term for the act of setting aside a portion of a company's profits for future use or investment?	Retention

What is the term for the act of formally ending a partnership or joint venture between two companies?	Dissolution
The act of speaking or writing in a way that is difficult to understand	Obscurantism
A person who believes in the complete elimination of private property	Communist
A person who is easily influenced by others	Gullible
The study of languages and their structure	Linguistics
A person who is excessively talkative	Garrulous
A person who is excessively proud of their nation	Nationalist
A person who is opposed to war and violence	Pacifist
A person who is new to a profession or activity	Novice
One who writes under a different name	Pseudonym
A person who is unable to sleep	Insomniac
The act of spreading ideas or information to promote a cause	Propaganda
A statement that contradicts itself	Paradox
The act of predicting future events	Prophecy
The act of showing favoritism to family or friends, especially in business or politics	Nepotism
The act of causing harm or injury to someone's reputation	Defamation
The act of speaking or writing that is characterized by brevity and conciseness	Succinctness
The act of taking pleasure in someone else's misfortune	Schadenfreude
A person, who could be an employee of a company disclosing information to the public or some higher authority about any wrongdoing	Whistleblower
A person who leads or inspired others in working towards a valued goal	Torchbearer
A person who is skilled in the art of using scientific knowledge to solve practical problems - Engineer	Engineer
The act of speaking or writing that is characterized by harsh or bitter language	Vituperation
A person who is always hopeful	Optimist

Difference between American, British and Indian English (Vocabulary based)

American English	British English	Indian English
Apartment	Flat	Flat
Elevator	Lift	Lift
Trunk (of a car)	Boot	Dickey
Truck	Lorry	Lorry
Vacation	Holiday	Holiday
Flashlight	Torch	Torch
Candy	Sweets	Toffee
Cookie	Biscuit	Biscuit
Diaper	Nappy	Nappy
Faucet	Tap	Tap
Fall (Season)	Autumn	Autumn
Gasoline	Petrol	Petrol
Subway	Underground	Metro
Cell Phone	Mobile phone	Mobile
Closet	Wardrobe	Almirah
Trashcan	Bin	Dustbin
Pharmacy	Chemist	Medical shop
Attorney	Barrister/ Solicitor	Advocate
Sidewalk	Pavement	Footpath
Zip code	Postcode	PIN Code