

A large, faint, circular logo in the background. It features the letters 'T.I.M.E.' in a stylized font, with dots between them, arranged in an arc at the top. Below the letters is a central emblem that looks like a compass rose or a stylized 'E'.

COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS

CONFUSABLE WORDS

1. ACCESS / ASSESS

Access is a way of entering or reaching a place.
The only access to the ground was through a narrow gate.
Assess is to make a judgement about the nature or quality of somebody or something.
I wanted to assess the urgency of the issue before taking a decision.

2. ACCESSION / ASCENSION

Accession is the act of becoming a ruler of a county/becoming part of an international organization.
The first anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne will be celebrated with great pomp and splendour.
Ascension refers to the act of going to Heaven.
Mother Teresa was conferred with sainthood after her ascension.

3. AFFECTION / AFFECTATION

Affection is a feeling of love.
Her affection for the orphans is obvious from her loving deeds.
Affectation is artificial behaviour.
He is a simple person without fuss or affectation.

4. ALTER / ALTAR

Alter is to change or to make someone or something different.
She wanted to alter her appearance.
Altar is a special table where religious ceremonies are performed.
He stood at the altar, waiting for the priest.

5. ANTICIPATE / EXPECT

Anticipate is to be aware of something in advance.
We anticipate a good monsoon this year.
Expect is to think or believe something will happen.
I expect you will do very well in your examination because you worked so hard.

6. APPRAISE / APPRISE

Appraise is to make an estimate.
Frequent appraisals of a company's performance is the hallmark of good management.
Apprise means to inform.
I was apprised of the dangers that I might face during the trip.

7. ACCEDE / CONCEDE

Accede means to agree.
I acceded to his suggestion that I should continue my education before seeking employment.
Concede means to admit or give in to.
The opponent conceded defeat without much fight.

8. ADAPT / ADEPT / ADOPT

Adapt is to change in accordance with the need or situation.
In order to progress, one must adapt to change.
Adept means to be skilful at something.
These thieves are adept at breaking into locked houses.
Adopt is to become legal parents of a child that is not one's own.
Many people have come forward to adopt the orphans after the tsunami.

9. ANTICS / ANTIQUE

Antics are absurd acts or postures.
His antics at the party amused everyone.
Antique is something very old which is very valuable.
This shop sells antique items.

10. AESTHETIC / ASCETIC

Aesthetic is something artistic or beautiful or tasteful.
The lady was praised for her aesthetic sense.
Ascetic is one who abstains from pleasures and luxuries.
He wanted to retire from his profession and lead the life of an ascetic.

11. ALLUDE / ELUDE

Allude is to hint at.
The lady alluded that her husband was to blame for the misunderstanding.
Elude means evade or escape from.
The facts of the incident eluded him.

12. ALLUSION / ILLUSION

Allusion is an indirect reference to something.
The allusion that I am a lazy person is false.
Illusion is false notion / idea or belief.
Do not have any illusion that this problem is easy to solve.

13. AFFECT / EFFECT

Affect is the influence of something upon something or someone.
Don't let the weather affect your work.
Effect is the result of something.
The effect of the heavy monsoon this year is that we have adequate water in the city.

14. AURAL / ORAL / AURIC

Aural has to do with the sense of hearing.
The scientist has invented a new machine that will improve one's aural faculties.
Oral refers to the spoken language.
Schools should lay adequate stress on oral work too.
Auric has to do with gold.
The auric splendour of the autumn leaves held everyone spellbound.

15. BENEFICIAL / BENEFICIARY

Beneficial is something that helps people to improve their lives.
Vitamins are beneficial to our health.
Beneficiary is someone who gains or is helped by something.
Mohan is the chief beneficiary of his father's will.

16. BESIDE / BESIDES

Beside means next to.
There is a church beside my house.
Besides mean in addition to.
Besides teaching English, she can handle Maths classes also.

17. CASUAL / CAUSAL

Casual means relaxed and unconcerned.
Her casual attitude to the examination led to her failure.
Causal means acting as a cause, responsible. The management's refusal to revise salaries was causal to the strike.

18. COLLISION / COLLUSION

Collision is to crash into something.
The head-on collision of the bus and the car resulted in extensive damage to the smaller vehicle.
Collusion is a secret or illegal co-operation.
The policeman was in collusion with the black-marketer and so turned a blind eye to his activities.

19. COMPLAINT / COMPLIANT

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction.
The Principal took note of the child's complaint about the non-availability of textbooks.
Compliant means to be willing.
The CEO of the company wanted a compliant work force.

20. COMPLEMENT / COMPLIMENT

Complement is to enhance or improve something.
This dress complements her beauty.
Compliment is to praise.
I complimented her on her good taste.

21. COMPLEMENT / SUPPLEMENT

Complement means to make a good combination.
The green curtains complement the wall paper.
Supplement means to add to.
He had to work overtime to supplement the family income.

22. CONFIDANT / CONFIDENT

Confidant is someone you can confide in.
Her sister is her confidant.
Confident is to be sure of.
Mayur was confident he could complete the task unaided.

23. CONSCIENTIOUS / CONSCIOUS

A conscientious person is one who is very careful about work.
The conscientious worker could not be persuaded to take leave till he had finished the job on hand.
To be conscious is to be aware.
I am conscious of the feelings of discontent among my staff.

24. CONTINUAL / CONTINUOUS

Continual is constantly or frequently occurring.
I am unable to finish this novel because of the continual interruptions.
Continuous is without a break.
Continuous rain for three whole days led to the flooding of all roads.

25. CREDIBLE / CREDULOUS

Credible is something that can be believed.
The minister's claim that he was trying his best to contain terrorism sounded credible.
A credulous person is one who easily believes what he is told.
Quacks continue to operate in villages because of credulous poor.

26. DENY / REFUSE

Deny is used to say something is not true.
He denied that he had any role in the crime.
Refuse is to indicate unwillingness to accept or grant.
He refused to assist them in the crime.

27. DESERT / DESSERT

If we desert someone or a place, we leave them / it.
The politician was deserted by his supporters.
Dessert is the sweet dish served after a meal.
We had ice-cream and fresh fruit for dessert.

28. DISINTERESTED / UNINTERESTED

Disinterested is to be impartial or unbiased.
The viewers were disinterested observers of the game.
Uninterested means bored, not interested.
The lecture was uninteresting so I took out my book to read.

29. ECONOMIC / ECONOMICAL

Economic has to do with the management of money.
Economic policies can make or break governments.
Economical is sparing in the use of resources or money.
It is economical to buy goods in that shop.

30. EMINENT / IMMINENT

Eminent means well-known.
This country has produced many eminent scientists.
Imminent is something that is likely to happen immediately.
War is imminent, warned the minister.

31. ENDEMIC / EPIDEMIC

Endemic is something that is found regularly in a particular place.
Malaria is endemic in tropical countries.
Epidemic is the outbreak of disease, affecting a large number of people.
AIDS threatens to become an epidemic.

32. EXPLICIT / IMPLICIT

Explicit means something that is shown or expressed clearly.
The article dealt explicitly with corruption in high places.
Implicit means without question, absolute.
Implicit faith in the Almighty helps one to bear suffering.

33. EUPHEMISM / EUPHONIOUS

Euphemism is to couch something unpleasant in pleasant words.
The phrase 'voluntary retirement' may be a euphemism for redundancy.
Euphonious means sounding pleasant.
Euphonious notes of music floated in from the neighbour's house.

34. FACILITATE / FELICITATE

Facilitate means to make easy.
The new road will facilitate quicker travel.
Felicitate means to congratulate.
A meeting was called to felicitate the outgoing manager.

32. FARTHER / FURTHER

Farther or further is used with reference to distance.
I cannot walk any farther/further.
Further means to a great extent or degree. Farther cannot be used here.
Prices have already touched the roof; can they go any further?

33. HISTORIC / HYSTERIC

Historic is something that is famous or significant in history.
The Taj Mahal is a historic monument.
Hysteric is a state of uncontrolled emotion.
The hysterical weeping of the woman brought a tear to every eye.

34. LUXURIOUS / LUXURIANT

Luxurious is something that is fine and expensive.
They lived in a luxurious house.
Luxuriant is something that grows healthily.
He owes his luxuriant crop of hair to a new hair oil.

35. IMAGINARY / IMAGINATIVE

Imaginary is something that is not real.
He suffered from imaginary fears.
Imaginative shows the use of one's imagination.
Viplav is an imaginative writer who is very popular with the young.

36. INCREDIBLE / INCREDULOUS

Incredible is difficult or impossible to believe.
She told us an incredible story.
Incredulous means not willing or able to believe something.
He gave me an incredulous look when I said I had cooked the entire meal.

37. INDUSTRIAL / INDUSTRIOUS

Industrial is a word to describe things which relate to industry.
Industrial effluents are poisoning water bodies.
Industrious means hard working.
An industrious and willing worker is bound to attain success.

38. INTERCEDE / INTERVENE

Intercede is to speak in favour or on behalf of.
Ronak asked his father to intercede with the principal on his behalf.
Intervene means to interrupt or stop.
My father will return tomorrow unless the weather intervenes.

39. JEST / ZEST

Jest means humour.
He made the remark in jest.
Zest is enthusiasm.
His zest for painting even at the age of 90 is amazing.

40. MOMENTARY / MOMENTOUS

Momentary means lasting only for a short time.
She suffered from a momentary lapse of memory.
Momentous is something of very great importance.
Receiving the Noble Prize was a momentous occasion in his life.

41. NEGLIGENT / NEGLIGIBLE

Negligent means to be careless.
She was negligent about her appearance.
Negligible means so small as to be not worthy of attention.
Her contribution to the effort was negligible.

42. ORDINANCE / ORDNANCE

Ordinance is a law or an order or a statute.
The government has issued an ordinance forbidding the dumping of construction material on roads.
Ordnance refers to ammunition, weapons.
A new ordnance factory is to be set up in one of the southern states.

43. PERSPICACIOUS / PERSPICUOUS

Perspicacious means to have very clear judgement and understanding.
People relied on her because she was perspicacious.
Perspicuous is something that is clearly expressed.
The perspicuous nature of the document pleased everyone.

44. PLAUSIBLE / PROBABLE

Plausible is something that seems to be true.
Shama told us a plausible story.
Probable is something that has a good chance of being true.
It is probable that the strike will be called off.

45. POPULAR / POPULOUS

Popular is something or someone that is liked by all.
He is popular with college students.
Populous means thickly populated.
India is a populous country.

46. RAISE / RISE / RAZE

Raise is to lift or move something to a higher level.
Petrol prices have been raised again.
Rise is an increase in number.
There has been a sharp rise in the crime rate.
Raze is to destroy completely.
Many buildings were completely razed to the ground in the earthquake.

47. RECOURSE / RESOURCE

Recourse means to seek help from.
He took recourse to Yoga to overcome stress.
Resource is something one can use to increase one's wealth.
The earth's natural resources will soon be exhausted if man is not careful.

48. SENSUOUS / SENSUAL

Sensuous means something that gives pleasure to the mind or body through the sense.
The sensuous touch of the warm water in the bubble bath made her drowsy.
Sensual is something that shows or suggests a great liking for physical pleasures.
The sensual movement of her hips had everyone's eye riveted to her.

49. REFUSE / REFUGE / REFUGEE

Refuse is waste or garbage.
The refuse from the city is dumped on the outskirts.
Refuge is shelter or protection.
People took refuge on roof tops to save themselves from the rising flood waters.
Refugee is someone who is forced to leave his country on account of war or other turmoil.
Many refugees from neighbouring countries have settled in India.

50. VENAL / VENIAL

Venal refers to the willingness to do dishonest or immoral things for money.
Eleven venal politicians were expelled from the Indian parliament in the cash-for-question case.
Venial refers to sin or fault that can be easily forgiven.
Even though the man was guilty of only a venial offence, his wife refused to pardon him.

51. VIRTUOUS / VIRTUOSO

Virtuous means being morally good.
She led a virtuous life.
Virtuoso is one who is good at a particular activity, especially a musical instrument.
L. Subramanyam is a violin virtuoso.

52. WILLING / WILLFUL

Willing is to be ready to do something.
I am willing to undertake the responsibility.
Willful is to show strong and unreasonable determination to have one's way.
He is a willful child and is a trial for his parents.

53. YOLK / YOKE

Yolk is the yellow part of the egg.
Egg yolk is not used in this recipe.
Yoke is the wooden bar used on two animals so that they can work together.
The bullocks were yoked to the plough.