



CONFUSING WORDS 2

VOCABULARY, PRONUNCIATION
& GRAMMAR LESSON



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1

especially - /ɪ'speʃəli/
specially - /'speʃəli/

Especially: more with one person, thing, etc. than with others, or more in particular circumstances than in others

I love Seville, **especially** in the spring.

Baby animals are cute, **especially** puppies.

Specially: for a particular purpose, person, etc.

I made this cake **specially** for you.

In British English, **especially** and **specially** are often used in the same way and it can be hard to hear the difference when people speak. **Specially** is less formal

I made this cake **especially** for you

I made this cake **specially** for you.

2

loose - /luːs/
lose - /luːz/

Loose - adjective meaning not tight or securely fixed

I need to go to the dentist - my tooth is **loose**!

I lost weight and now my clothes are **loose**.



Lose - to be unable to find something/somebody or to fail to keep something

Go to the dentist before you **lose** your **loose** tooth!

She wants to **lose** weight to make her clothes **loose**.

3

accept - /ək'sept/
except - /ɪk'sept/

Accept (verb) - to agree or to receive something offered

I will not **accept** your apology.

I hope they **accept** the proposed changes.

Except (preposition/conjunction) - apart from, excluding or with the exception of

I study every day **except** Sundays.

We look exactly the same **except** my hair is darker.

MEMORY TIP

The ex- of **except** can help you to remember that it means 'excluding'.

To **except** is a very formal verb meaning to not include something/someone

Tours are arranged all year round (January **excepted**).

It is very confusing if you hear this in spoken English as it sounds like '**accepted**', but it is less confusing if you see it written down. **Except** as a verb is very rare so I wouldn't worry too much about it.



4 **assure** - /ə'ʃʊ:(r)/
ensure - /In'ʃʊ:(r)/
insure - /In'ʃʊ:(r)/

To **assure**: to remove someone's doubts

I **assure** you that we will arrive on time.

To **ensure**: to make sure that something happens/to guarantee

I need to study to **ensure** I pass my exam.

So, you **assure** a person, you **ensure** everything else.

To **insure**: to cover something/someone with an insurance policy

The insurance company won't **insure** my house against flooding.

5 **inquire** - /In'kwɪə(r)/
enquire - /In'kwɪə(r)/

Both **inquire** and **enquire** mean to ask somebody for some information

Traditionally, 'to **enquire**' simply meant 'to ask' whereas 'to **inquire**' was used for formal investigations.

In the British English, the two words are now used interchangeably, although 'to **inquire**' is still the more commonly used word for formal investigations.

In American English, 'to **inquire**' tends to be used for both formal and informal situations, meaning 'to **enquire**' is less commonly used.



Activity

1. Put your key on your keyring - I don't want you to _____ them.
2. I'm going to _____ at the tourist information desk to see if there are any good restaurants nearby.
3. Can you _____ that the project is completed on time?
4. I _____ you that the project will be completed by tomorrow!
5. I eat everything _____ red meat.
6. I can't _____ your receipt - it's covered in chocolate!
7. I designed the ring _____ for you!

7. specially (or especially in BrE)

6. accept

5. except

is with 'you')

4. assure (you are removing someone's doubts - the key

someone)

3. ensure (you are guaranteeing something, not to

2. enquire (BrE) OR inquire (AmE)

1. lose

The End