

## **CONFUSING** WORDS 2

VOCABULARY, PRONUNCIATION & GRAMMAR LESSON

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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.

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.

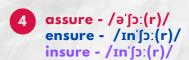
## **MEMORY TIP**

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.



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 - /ɪnˈkwaɪə(r)/ enquire - /ɪnˈkwaɪə(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 yo	ur keyring - I don't want you to
them.	
2.I'm going to	at the tourist information desk to se
if there are any goo	d restaurants nearby.
3. Can you th	nat the project is completed on time?
4.I you that t	he project will be completed by
tomorrow!	
5. I eat everything	red meat.
6. I can't y	ou receipt - it's covered in chocolate!
7. I designed the ring	for you!
	7. specially (or especially in BrE)
	6.accept
	5.except
	('uoy' d'iw si
,s qonpts - the key	4. assure (you are removing someone
	(əuoəwos
ot ton ,gnidte	3. ensure (you are guaranteeing some
	2.enquire (BrE) OR inquire (AmE)
	J.lose

The End