

# Confusing Words



# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

some time

an indefinite time in the future

Let's meet for coffee some time.

sometimes

adverb of frequency  
meaning 'occasionally'

He sometimes works late.

lose

to misplace; to  
fail to retain

Don't lose your  
passport!

loose

not firmly or tightly  
fixed in place

I need to tighten  
the loose screw.

**British**  
trainers



**American**  
sneakers  
*/ˈsniːkərs/*

**British**  
jumper  
pullover



**American**  
sweater  
*/ˈswetər/*

# Confusing Words

MEANING, DIFFERENCE AND EXAMPLES

Tail – Tale      Earn – Urn

Real – Reel      Very – Vary

# Tale

## Noun

Short story.



For example:

- The children listened to an exciting **tale**.
- I enjoy reading fairy **tales**.

# Tail

## Noun

The rear of an animal.

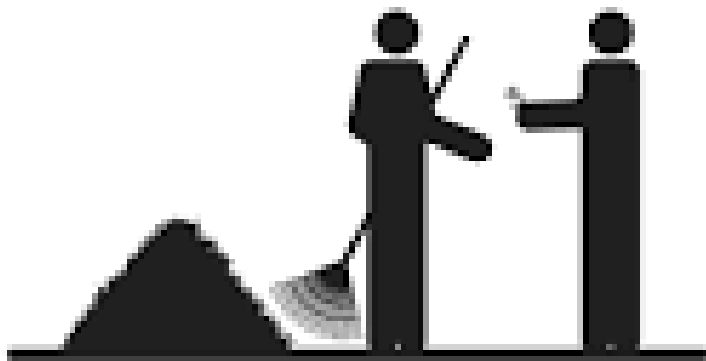


- The dog wagged its **tail**.
- Elephants have short **tails**.

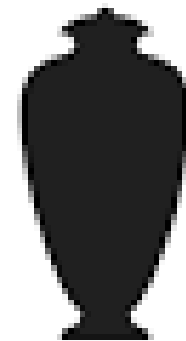
## Verb

To follow someone.

- The paparazzi **tailed** them all around the city.



**Earn**



**Urn**

# Real vs. Reel

- ▶ Real is an adjective that means *existing* or *significant*.
- ▶ Reel can be a noun or a verb. As a noun, it means *a spool of long بكرة طويلة*, *narrow material* like film or string. As a verb, it sometimes means *to wind around a spool*, like one does when fishing. It can also mean *to stagger ارباك* or *stumble عثر*, like one does when one has taken a blow to the head.



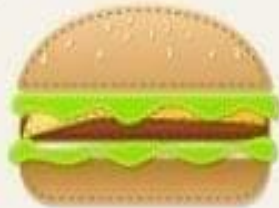
Their

Vs

There

Vs

They're



**Their:** (*pronoun*) belonging to them.

"They ate **their** cheeseburgers."



**There:** (*adverb, noun/pronoun, adjective*) that place or that point.

"That cheeseburger **there** is mine."



**They're:** (*contraction*) a combination of they and are.

"**They're** asking for more mustard."



**already:** by this time

**all ready:** fully prepared

# Confusing Words

<http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/web/conford.html>

**accept** - (v) to receive

He **accepts** defeat well.

**except** - (prep) taken or left out

Please take all the books off the shelf **except** for the red one.

## Bath vs. Bathe

- **Bath** - The noun
- **Bathe** - The verb – I like to bathe in the morning.
- *The noun has the voiced 'th' sound and the verb has the unvoiced 'th' sound*



# Anyway vs. Any way

- ▶ **Anyway** is an adverb meaning regardless غض  
النظر عن.
- ▶ **Any way** is a phrase meaning any manner or method.
- ▶ I don't want to go to the party, **anyway**.
- ▶ We could take **any way** we want to get to the party.

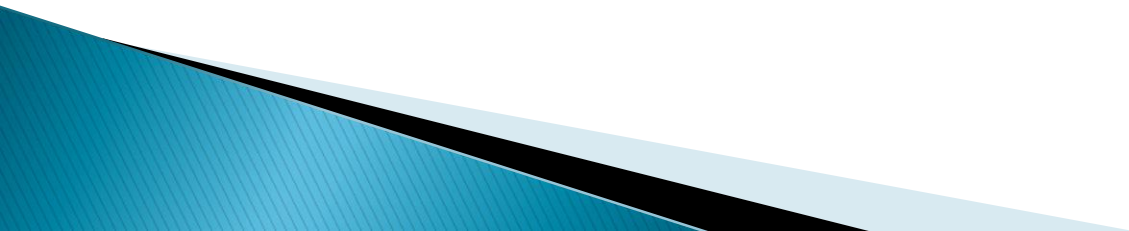


Money Doesn't  
Grow on Trees!

# Bear fruit

**Meaning:** To give favorable outcome.

**Example:** She thinks her new plan will bear fruit.

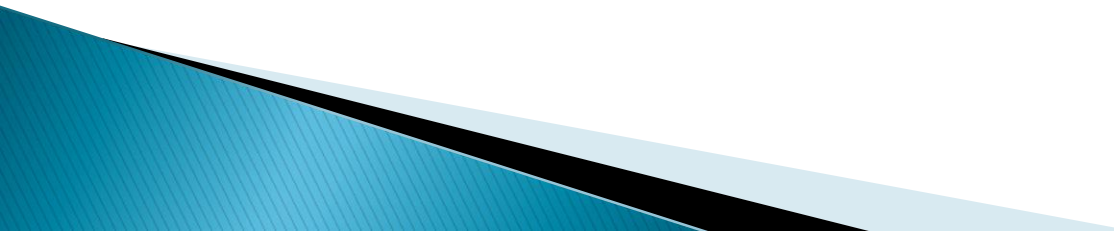




# To talk turkey

**Meaning:** To talk directly and honestly; to discuss frankly about business.

**Example:** We have incurred huge losses this quarter. Let's talk turkey rather than shifting the blame.



# Pots of money

- ▶ **Meaning:** Having lots of money.

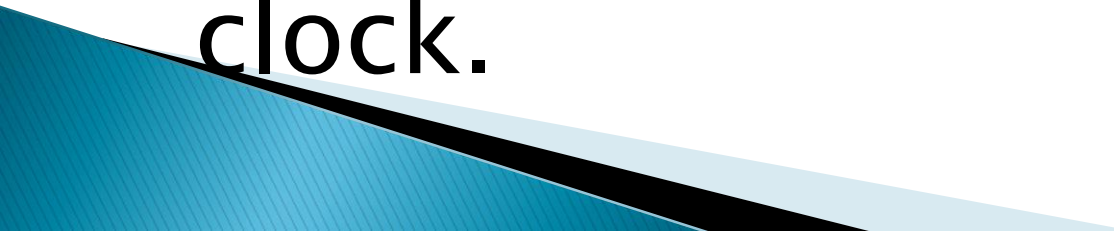
**Example:** Mr. Ben stays in luxurious resorts because he has earned pots of money.

# Beat the clock

- ▶ **Meaning:** Completing your work within time.

**Example:** i. At the end of the fiscal year employees were forced to beat the clock.

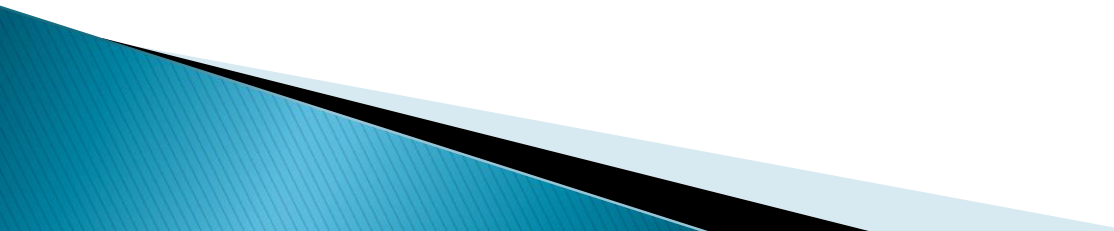
ii. People who achieve success are the ones who beat the clock.



# Can't make head or tails of it

▶ **Meaning:** Unable to understand anything.

**Example:** The prose is so difficult, she can't make head or tail of it.



# Pick one's brain

**Meaning:** To obtain particular information from an expert.

**Example:** 1) He often picks his brother's brain in studies.

2) I often pick John's brain about cooking tips, because he is a brilliant chef in a 5 star hotel.

