

## Write it right – spelling and grammar mnemonics

English can be a confusing language – even for native speakers – as it’s riddled with homophones (words that sound the same but are spelt differently) and words that look very similar but have different meanings. These tricks may help you remember some of the more commonly confused pairs.

- **Everyday** or **every day**? *Every day* means *each day*; *everyday* is an adjective equivalent to *normal* or *usual*. See if you can replace *every* with *each* in your sentence. If you can, it's two words: *everyday items*; *each day passed*.
- **Who's** means *who is*; **whose** describes something that belongs to someone. Remember *Whose hose is this?*
- Is it a **principal** or **principle**? With an **A** is the m**A**ior or m**A**in one; with an **E** is an **E**thical guide
- **Advance** or **advanced**? *Advance* means *before*; *advanced* is used when something is more *developed* (link the **D** on *advance**D*** to the **D** on *Develop**D***). You cannot give 'advanced notice!'
- **Immigration** or **emigration**? Simple! *Immigration* is coming **In**; *Emigration* is **Ex**iting
- Is it **advice** or **advise**? Remember: **WISE** people **advISE**; the **advICE** is **nICE**
- Mixing up **lend** and **borrow**? Think **Libraries Lend**; **Bookworms Borrow**
- **Affect** or **effect**? **Affect** is the **Action**; **Effect** is the **rEsult** “Poor grammar affects your credibility; words have an effect on reputation”
- **Stationary** or **stationery**? Which is which? Remember we buy **pEns** and **pEncils** from a **stationEr** (all with an **E**); if something is **stAnding** still, it's **stationAry** (both with an **A**)
- Confusing **lose** and **loose**? If you **lOse** something you've **lOst** it (one **O**), while a **lOOse** belt has more holes (or **O**s)
- Puzzling over **less** or **fewer**? If you can count them on your **Fingers** it's **Fewer**; if you can't, it's **less**. “I've got less money; you've got fewer coins”
- **Imply** or **infer**? Which is which? The person who **implies** gives the information (both with **I**); the one who **infeRs** **Receives** it (both with **R**).
- **Except** or **accept**? When you **Accept** you **tAke** (both with **A**); **Except** is what's **lEft** (with **E**)

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