

Confusing words: Use a dictionary to understand their difference.

accept

except

accede

exceed

all ready

already

access

excess

all together

altogether

allusion

illusion

emigrate

immigrate

any way

anyway

eminent

imminent

casual

causal

eligible

illegible

cease

seize

Elicit

Illicit

confidant

confident

Desert

Dessert

costume

custom

climactic

climatic

device

devise

amoral

immoral

council

counsel

restless

restive

complement

compliment

oral

aural

Personal

Personnel

expect

suspect

Infer

Imply

Principal

Principle

precede

proceed

Capitol

Capital

loose

lose

Use **'say'** to speak in general about something that has been said by someone. 'Say' is often used to report what someone else has said.

- John said he had a good time in Las Vegas.
- The teacher often says we need to study more.

Important Note: 'Say' refers to any type of speech and is therefore more general in nature.

Use **'tell'** to mean that someone has instructed or informed someone else of something. 'Tell' is often used to report what someone else has told a specific person.

- Angela told them to hurry up.
- Our friends told us about their experiences in Germany.

Important Note: 'Tell' is always followed by an indirect object. The infinitive form is often used following the construction to indicate instructions.

There is little difference between 'speak' and 'talk' and they are often used interchangeably.

'Speak' is often used when someone is speaking to a group of people in general. 'Speak' is also used with languages.

- Peter speaks both German and Italian.
- She spoke about her problems at work.

Important Note: 'Speak' tends to be used in more formal situations.

'Talk' is used to express informal conversation between a limited number of people.

- My wife and I talked about our child's future.
- She continued talking to Jack after I left the room.

Important Note: 'Talk' is often used with the preposition 'about' when introducing the subject of conversation, and 'to' when introducing the conversational partner.

Use **'raise'** to indicate that something is lifted into another position by another person or thing.

- I raised the books above my head.
- She raised her hand in class.

Important Note: 'Raise' is also used to express bringing up children, as well as increasing salary.

Remember that 'raise' takes a direct object (the object being raised by someone or something).

- They raised my weekly salary by \$200.
- They raised their children to respect the elderly.

Use **'rise'** to express movement of the subject from a lower to a higher position.

- I rose from my chair and left the room.
- She hasn't risen from that seat for more than three hours.

Important Note: 'Rise' can also indicate the act of getting up in the morning.

- I like to rise early and get work done.

Use **'remind'** to indicate that someone has reminded someone else to do something. Use the phrasal verb 'remind of' to indicate that someone or something else reminds you of someone or something else.

- Jane reminded me to get him something for his birthday.
- She reminded me of my sister.

Important Note: 'Remind' always takes an object.

'Remember' is used when a person remembers to do something on his or her own. 'Remember' is also used to express recollections of a past event.

- I remembered to post the letters.
- I remember studying all night long for exams.

Important Note: 'Remember + Infinitive (to do)' refers to someone who remembers to do something. 'Remember + Gerund (ing form)' refers to a memory of a past event.

Use **'leave'** to express movement away from a place.

- I left the house at five o'clock.
- She always leaves for work at seven in the morning.

Important Note: 'Leave' can also express the idea that someone has forgotten or placed something in another place.

- She left her keys on the table.
- I usually leave the papers in the top drawer.

Use **'let'** to express the idea that someone allows another person do something.

- I let them leave work early.
- She lets her children watch TV on Saturdays.

Important Note: Remember that 'let' is always followed by an object and a verb in the base form without 'to'.

Use **'set'** to express the placement of an object on a surface.

- I set the plates down on the table.
- She set the books on chest of drawers.

Important Note: 'Set' is often used to refer to placing plates, glasses and other utensils on the table.

Use **'sit'** when referring to the subject which moves from a standing to a sitting position.

- Can I sit down?
- Please sit on this chair.

Important Note: 'Sit' is often used with the preposition 'down'.

Use **'go'** to express the entire movement away from the current location of the speaker or listener to another location. For example:

- Let's go to a film tonight.
- Where did John go this afternoon?

Important Note: 'Go' is often used together with 'there' to indicate a location away from the speaker.

Use **'come'** to express movement from a different location to the current location of the speaker or hearer. For example:

- Would you like me to come over for lunch?
- Please come to my party this coming Friday.

Important Note: 'Come' is often used together with 'here' to indicate a location close to the speaker.

Use **'get'** to express a point of arrival or a destination. For example:

- I got to work at seven thirty this morning.
- It took us three hours to get to San Francisco.

Important Note: 'Get' is often used together with a specific point of time, a duration of time, or a specific destination.

Use **'go'** to express the journey, trip or experience in general. This includes both the journey to and from the destination. For example:

- We went to Hawaii on vacation.
- How often have you gone to that restaurant?

Important Note: 'Go' is also often used in general to speak about the entire journey, trip or experience, rather than the actual traveling to a location.

Use **'bring'** to express movement towards or with a person that is at the current location. For example:

- Could you bring me that newspaper, please?
- Have you brought the documents along?

Important Note: 'Bring' is often used together with 'here' to indicate a location close to the speaker.

Use **'take'** to express movement away from a person to a another location. For example:

- We took our dog with us on vacation.
- Do you take your briefcase with you to work every day?

Important Note: 'Take' is often used together with 'there' to indicate a location away from the speaker.

Use **'fetch'** to express the action of going to an object and bringing to back to the current location: For example:

- Here Frankie! Go fetch the Ball!
- Could you fetch the paper for me this morning?

Important Note: 'Fetch' is often used as a noun to speak about the game of running and getting a ball or other toy with a dog.

Use **'see'** to speak about the entire event or experience of watching a film, show, concert, etc. For example:

- Have you seen the latest film by Spielberg?
- We saw the new play at the Hello Theater last weekend.

Use **'watch'** to speak about the action of viewing something on TV, online, etc. For example:

- Just a moment, I'm watching a video clip on YouTube.
- Tom's watching TV, let me get him for you.

Use **'listen'** to speak about the action of paying attention to someone, or something such as music, a lecture, etc. For example:

- I'm listening to the String Quartet No. 2 by Borodin.
- Pay attention when you listen to him speak.

Use **'hear'** to speak about an entire event or completed action of listening. For example:

- Did you hear Tom's speech last night?
- I haven't heard her sing yet.

Use **'lend'** to express the act of giving money or to another person for a period of time before expecting repayment of the original money (plus interest if a commercial loan). For example:

- Can you lend me \$20 until tomorrow?
- The bank loaned her enough to purchase a new car.

Important Note: You can also 'lend' objects or things. In this case, the object is expected to be given back after a certain period of time.

Use **'borrow'** to express the act of taking money from another person or institution to pay back after a certain period of time. For example:

- I borrowed \$50 from a friend last week.
- How much have you borrowed from the bank?

Important Note: You can also 'borrow' objects or things. In this case, the object is expected to be given back after a certain period of time.