Commonly Confused Words

Word List (Part 1)

Word	Explanation	Example
a	used before a word beginning with a consonant	I read a book a day.
an	used before a word beginning with a vowel sound	I eat an apple an hour <i>.</i>
a lot	means "many, much"	I have a lot of homework to do.
allot	means "to distribute"	I will allot \$300 for groceries.
are	a verb meaning "to be"	They are happy.
or	separates two choices	I'll eat rice or potatoes.
our	shows ownership by one's group	Our class meets tomorrow.
accept	means "to receive, to agree as true"	l cannot accept the award.
except	means "to take or leave out"	Everyone except Alice is gone.
affect	means "to influence"	Health affects happiness.
effect	means "a result"	The music had a positive effect .
by	means "next to, close to"	I sit by that guy in class.
bye	a farewell	Juan said, " Bye ," and then left.
buy	means "to purchase"	I want to buy an Xbox.
have	a verb used to create conditional statements	If I could have gone, I would have .
of	a preposition indicating belonging	Ann is one of three sisters.
hear	means "to perceive sound"	We can hear loud music.
here	means "this place"	Come here !
it's	a contraction of "it is"	lt's my favorite novel.
its	a pronoun that shows ownership	The puppy lost its toy.
knew	the past tense of "know"	l knew you were there.
new	means "never used before, recent"	Is that a new car you're driving?
know	means "to have information or reasoned belief"	l know your secret.
no	used to express refusal, denial	No , it is not raining.
lie	means "to recline"	Lizards lie in the sun.
lay	means "to put something down"	Lay the box on the table.
lose	means "to be deprived of, not to win"	Did the team lose the game?
loose	means "not securely attached"	My shoelace is loose .
passed past	the past tense of "to pass," means "to have moved" means "belonging to a former time or place"	We already passed the exit. Don't forget the past .

Word List (Part 2)

Explanation Word

quit	means "to stop" or "to leave"
quite	means "actually," "somewhat," or "very"
quiet	means "making no noise, silent"
sweet	means "having a sugary taste, pleasing"
sweat	means "to perspire"
than	used in comparisons
then	used to refer to a particular time
there	means "that place or position"
their	a pronoun used to show ownership by a group
they're	a contraction of "they are"
to	a preposition indicating direction
too	means "also" or "excessive"
two	a number, the spelling of "2"
through	means "in one side and out the other"
threw	the past tense of "throw"
thorough	means "careful or complete"
though	means "however, nevertheless"
were	the past tense of "are"
we're	a contraction of "we are"
where	a question word that stands in for a place or position
who	a pronoun for someone <i>doing</i> an action
whom	a pronoun for someone <i>receiving</i> an action
you're	a contraction for "you are"
your	a pronoun showing ownership

Example

Quit making that noise! I was **quite** full after dinner. Please be quiet!

This dessert is too sweet. I sweat like a hog.

Driving is faster **than** walking. I was much happier back then.

Meet me over there. The workers love their boss. They're very strange.

Javier is going to Seattle The rent is **too** high. Gwen has **two** llamas.

Drive through the tunnel. She **threw** a rock at the tree. John did a thorough job. I have food, though not much.

The students were late. We're watching a movie. Where in the world are you?

I like people who like animals. With whom should I speak?

You're an excellent writer. I believe this is **your** notebook.

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