

## Student Guide to Commonly Confused and Misspelled Words

### Proofreading tips to avoid using the wrong word/misspelling a word

- Read sentences aloud to catch wrong words.
- Slow down; context matters more than spellcheck.
- When in doubt, substitute simpler words or rephrase.

#### 1. **Their / There / They're**

Their = possession;  
 There = place;  
 They're = they are

#### 2. **Your / You're**

Your = possession;  
 You're = you are

#### 3. **Its / It's**

Its = possession;  
 It's = it is

#### 4. **Affect / Effect**

Affect = usually a verb (to influence);  
 Effect = usually a noun (result)

#### 5. **Then / Than**

Then = time/order;  
 Than = comparison

#### 6. **To / Too / Two**

To = direction;  
 Too = also/very;  
 Two = number

#### 7. **Lose / Loose**

Lose = to misplace;  
 Loose = not tight

#### 8. **Accept / Except**

Accept = receive;  
 Except = exclude

#### 9. **Principal / Principle**

Principal = main or school leader;  
 Principle = rule/belief

#### 10. **Compliment / Complement**

Compliment = praise;  
 Complement = completes something

#### 11. **Stationary / Stationery**

Stationary = not moving;  
 Stationery = writing materials

#### 12. **Farther / Further**

Farther = physical distance;  
 Further = figurative/degree

#### 13. **Fewer / Less**

Fewer = countable;  
 Less = uncountable

#### 14. **Peek / Peak / Pique**

Peek = glance;  
 Peak = top;  
 Pique = activate interest

#### 15. **Breath / Breathe**

Breath = noun;  
 Breathe = verb

#### 16. **Advice / Advise**

Advice = noun;  
 Advise = verb

#### 17. **Desert / Dessert**

Desert = dry land;  
 Dessert = sweet treat

#### 18. **Definitely / Defiantly**

Definitely = certainly;  
 Defiantly = boldly resisting