Confusing Word Pairs

**accept vs. except**
to *accept* is a verb meaning “to receive.”

*except* as a preposition means “with the exception that, or but.”
For example: Everyone *accepted* the offer to work overtime *except* Tim.

**access vs. excess**
*access* is used as a noun referring to the ability to enter, as in “*access* to the building,” and as a verb meaning *to enter*, as in “*access* the stage from the rear.”

*excess* functions as a noun or adjective that typically has to do with an amount that is more than usual or necessary, as in "an *excess* of salt" and "*excess* baggage."

**addition vs. edition**
*addition* and *edition* are both nouns.
*addition* refers to something added, as in “new *additions* to the museum's collection” and “an *addition* to the house.” It also refers to the process of adding, as in “the *addition* of cream to the soup,” and math problems involving *addition* and subtraction.

*edition* refers to a particular version of a book, product, newspaper, etc., as in "an illustrated *edition," or to something presented as one of a series, as in "tonight's *edition* of the show."

**advise vs. advice**
to *advise* is a verb.
*advice* is a noun.
For example: We *advised* the man to take our *advice* about the restaurant.

**affect vs. effect**
If you find yourself stumped about which one to use in a sentence, try substituting the word “alter” or “result.”
*affect* is usually a verb.
For example: Chester’s humming *affected* Posey’s ability to concentrate.
If “alter” fits (Chester’s humming *altered* Posey’s ability to concentrate), use *affect*.

*effect* is usually a noun.
For example: Chester was sorry for the *effect* his humming had.
If “result” fits (Chester was sorry for the *result* his humming had), use *effect*. 
a lot vs. alot vs. allot

*a lot* is often misspelled as *alot*
For example: There are *a lot* of pencils in the package.

*allot* means "to distribute, parcel out, give, or apportion (something) to someone as a share or task."
For example: *Allot* no more than 30 percent of your income for rent.

all right vs. alright

*all right* is often misspelled as “*alright.*” *All right* means someone or something is satisfactory or agreeable.
For example: *All right*, everyone: listen up.

allude vs. elude

*allude* is a verb that means "to speak of or mention something or someone in an indirect way," as in "they *alluded* to difficulties at their former school."

*elude* is a verb that most often means "to avoid or escape someone or something by being quick, skillful, or clever," as in "a criminal who has *eluded* capture."

allusion vs. illusion

*allusion* is a noun that means "a statement that refers to something without mentioning it directly," as in "a colleague's *allusion* to a former spouse."

*illusion* is a noun that refers to something that looks or seems different from what it is, as in "paint that creates the illusion of metal" and "an optical *illusion*." It also refers to an idea that is based on something that is not true, as in "they were under the *illusion* that the car was brand new."

among vs. amongst

*among* is the preferred and most common variant of this word in US English.
*amongst* is more common in British English. Neither version is wrong, but *amongst* may seem fussy to American readers.

among vs. between

*among* expresses a collective or loose relationship of several items.
For example: Chester found a letter hidden *among* the papers on the desk.

*between* expresses the relationship of one thing to one or more other things.
For example: Posey spent all day carrying messages *between* Chester and the other students.
The idea that *between* can be used only when talking about two things is a myth—it’s perfectly correct to use *between* if you are talking about multiple binary relationships.
amount vs. number
Amount describes objects that cannot be counted.
For example: The amount of time you spend studying determines your grades.

Number describes countable objects.
For example: The number of hours you spend studying determines your grades.

Note:
The number is singular
Example: The number of students going to the prom is overwhelming.

A number is plural.
Example: A number of those students will be arriving in limousines.

as vs. like
As is a subordinating conjunction.
For example: She runs as if she were a deer

Like is a preposition.
For example: She runs like a deer.

assure vs. ensure vs. insure
Assure means to tell someone that something will definitely happen or is definitely true.
For example: Posey assured Chester that no one would cheat at Bingo.

Ensure means to guarantee or make sure of something.
For example: Posey took steps to ensure that no one cheated at Bingo.

Insure means to take out an insurance policy on something of value.
For example: Posey was glad the Bingo Hall was insured against damage caused by rowdy Bingo players.

base vs. bass
Base is a noun, verb, and adjective.
The noun has a variety of meanings, several of which refer to a literal or figurative foundation or bottom, as in "the lamp's base," "the base of a mountain," "the company's customer base," and "base of operations." It's also used in various phrases like "touch base" and "on base."

The verb base means "the main place where a person works or lives or where a business operates," as in "a company based in Iowa." It is also used in phrases with on and upon: "an economy based on tourism."

The adjective base means "not honest or good," as in "base motives."
**bass** when pronounced to rhyme with *case* is a noun that refers to a low or deep sound or voice, or to a musical instrument. Another word, **bass** rhymes with *pass* and refers to a kind of fish.

**breath vs. breathe**

*breathe* is a verb; it means to exhale or inhale. For example: After Posey’s spectacular landing, Chester had to remind himself to *breathe* again.

**bridal vs. bridle**

*bridal* is an adjective that is used to describe things relating to a bride or wedding, as in "a *bridal* gown" and "*bridal* party."

*bridle* is a noun that refers to a device that fits on a horse’s head and that is used for guiding and controlling the horse.

*bridle* is also a verb with two meanings: one is "to put a *bride* on a horse"; the other is "to react in an angry way," as in "he *bridled* at their criticism of his methods."

**can vs. may**

*can* denotes the ability to do something. For example: I *can* play the piano well.

*may* indicates permission, possibility, or probability: For example: I *may* play the piano at next year’s recital.

**capital vs. capitol**

*capital* has several meanings. It can refer to an uppercase letter, money, or a city where a seat of government is located. For example: Chester visited Brasilia, the *capital* of Brazil.

*capitol* means the building where a legislature meets. For example: Posey visited the cafe in the basement of the *capitol* after watching a bill become a law.

**climactic vs. climatic**

climactic and climatic are both adjectives. *climactic* is related to the word *climax*; it means "most exciting and important," as in "the movie's *climactic* chase scene."
**climatic** means "of or relating to climate," as in "climatic conditions in the region that make it an ideal place to grow grapes."

**coarse vs. course**
*coarse* means "rough, unrefined."
For example: The gardener had a **coarse**, stubby beard.

*course* means "path or accustomed procedure."
For example: Is this **course** of action acceptable?

**collaborate vs. corroborate**
*collaborate* and *corroborate* are both verbs.
*collaborate* means "to work with another person or group in order to achieve or do something," as in "**collaborating** on a book about dogs."

*corroborate* means "to support or help prove a statement, theory, etc. by providing information or evidence," as in "two witnesses **corroborated** her story" and "a theory **corroborated** by recent studies."

**complement vs. compliment**
A **complement** is something that completes something else. It’s often used to describe things that go well together.

For example: Chester’s lime green boots were a perfect **complement** to his jacket.
A **compliment** is a nice thing to say:
For example: Posey received many **compliments** on her purple fedora.

**continual vs. continuous**
*continual* means “frequently repeated, habitual.”
For example: The children **continually** turned on the lights.

*continuous* means “uninterrupted, without cessation.”
For example: The waterfall **continuously** roared over the cliff.

**currant vs. current**
*currant* is a noun that refers to a small raisin or berry.

*current* is a noun that refers to a continuous movement of water or air in the same direction, as in "ocean **currents**," and also to a flow of electricity, as in "a strong/weak electrical **current**."

*current* also functions as an adjective meaning "happening or existing now," as in "the **current** month" and "the magazine's **current** issue."
**defense vs. defence**  
defense is standard in **US English**.  
defence is found mainly in **British English**.

**desert vs. dessert**  
**desert** functions as a noun referring to an area of very dry land that is usually covered with sand and is very hot.

**desert** is also a verb that means "to leave a place," as in "residents deserted the town," or "to leave someone or withdraw support for someone," as in "a promise to never desert them."

**dessert** is sweet food that is eaten after a meal: "ice cream for **dessert**."

**detract vs. distract**  
**detract** and **distract** are both verbs.
**detract** means "to reduce the strength, value, or importance of something," as in "a minor error that does not detract from the overall quality of the report."

**distract** means "to cause someone to stop thinking about or paying attention to someone or something and to think about or pay attention to someone or something else instead," as in "noises in the hallway distract the students."

**device vs. devise**  
**device** is a noun that most often refers to an object, machine, or piece of equipment that has been made for some special purpose, as in "electronic devices."

**devise** is a verb that means "to invent or plan something that is difficult or complicated," as in "devising a new method for converting sunlight into electricity."

**disinterested vs. uninterested**  
**disinterested** means "detached, objective, impartial."
**uninterested** means "not interested."
For example: The **disinterested** judge read the verdict to the **uninterested** jury.

**e.g. vs. i.e.**  
**e.g.**, is the abbreviation from the Latin phrase "**exempli gratia**" and means "for example,"
It introduces one or more examples that illustrate something stated, as in "Submit a sample of academic writing—**e.g.**, a dissertation chapter."
i.e., abbreviates the Latin “id est,” meaning “that is.” It introduces a rewording or a clarification, as in "The cough may last for a short period of time—i.e., three to five days."

**emigrate vs. immigrate**

emigrate means “to move away from a city or country to live somewhere else.” For example: Chester’s grandfather emigrated from Canada sixty years ago.

immigrate means “to move into a country from somewhere else.” For example: Posey’s sister immigrated to Ireland in 2004.

**eminent vs. imminent**

eminent and imminent are both adjectives. eminent means "successful, well-known, and respected," as in "an eminent physician."

imminent means "happening very soon," as in "awaiting their imminent arrival" or "their arrival is imminent."

**empathy vs. sympathy**

empathy is the ability to understand another person’s perspective or feelings. sympathy is a feeling of sorrow for someone else’s suffering. A sympathizer is someone who agrees with a particular ideal or cause.

**envelop vs. envelope**

envelop is a verb that means "to completely enclose or surround someone or something," as in "she enveloped the baby in the blanket" and "mist enveloping the mountains."

envelope is a noun that refers to an enclosing cover for a letter, card, etc. The word is also used in the phrase "push the envelope," which means "to go beyond the usual or normal limits by doing something new, dangerous, etc.," as in "a writer whose new novel pushes the envelope."

**farther vs. further**

farther refers to space or physical distance. For example: Posey can run farther than Chester.

further refers to metaphorical distance such as time, quantity, or degree. For example: Chester is further away from finishing his project than Posey is.

**feel vs. think**

feel means “to perceive by sensation.” For example: The sun feels too hot.
**think** means “to perceive by cognition.”
For example: I think his position on the war is wrong.

**fewer vs. less**
fewer means “a smaller number.”
less means “a smaller amount.”
For example: Even though tickets cost less this year, we still went to fewer games.

**flaunt vs. flout**
flaunt means “to show off.”
For example: Chester flaunted his stylish new outfit.

flout means “to defy, especially in a way that shows scorn.”
For example: Posey flouted the business-casual dress code by wearing a tiara and flip-flops.

**formally vs. formerly**
formally and formerly are both adverbs.
formally means “according to established rules and conventions.” It is used to describe things done in a serious and proper or official way, as in "guests were dressed formally" and "she has formally announced her candidacy."

formerly means "at an earlier time," or previously as in “this car was formerly owned by my neighbor."

**forth vs. fourth**
forth is an adverb used especially in literary contexts to mean "out into notice or view," as in "spring’s blossoms bursting forth," and "onward or forward in time or place," as in “from this day forth.” It is also used in various phrases such as "and so forth," "back and forth," "bring forth," and "set forth."

fourth is used as a noun, an adjective, and an adverb with meanings that relate to the number four. As a noun it can mean "number four in a series," as in "arriving on the fourth of May," and "one of four equal parts of something," as in "cut the cake into fourths." As an adjective it means "occupying the number four position in a series," as in "the fourth day": as an adverb it means "in the fourth place," as in "he finished fourth in the race."

**gaff vs. gaffe**
A gaff is a type of spear or hook with a long handle.
For example: Chester completed his sailor costume with a gaff borrowed from his uncle’s fishing boat.
A **gaffe** is a faux pas or social misstep. For example: Posey made a **gaffe** when she accidentally called Chester by the wrong name.

**gray vs. grey**

grey is the standard **American English** spelling.
gray is the standard **British English** spelling.

**hanged vs. hung**

People are **hanged**. Hanged is the past tense form of the verb to **hang**. It refers to when a person dies by **hanging** from his or her neck. For example: In the past, many men were **hanged** for their crimes.

In this tense, **hung** is the past tense form of the verb to hang. Meaning: To fasten from above with no support from below; suspend. For example: Will you **hang** this picture on the wall? I already did. I **hung** the picture on the wall for you yesterday.

**historic vs. historical**

Historic means “famous, important, and influential.” For example: Chester visited the beach in Kitty Hawk where the Wright brothers made their **historic** first airplane flight.

Historical means “related to history.” For example: The **historical** Punjab region, now divided between India and Pakistan, is defined by the Indus River and these five tributaries.

**hoard vs. horde**

hoard is used as a noun to refer to a large amount of something valuable that is kept hidden, as in "a dragon's hoard of treasure," and as a verb to mean "to collect and hide a large amount of something valuable," as in "a dragon hoards treasure."

horde is a noun that refers to a large group of people, as in "a horde of shoppers crowded the store."

**imply vs. infer**

imply means “to hint or suggest at something without saying it directly.” For example: The newspaper **implied** that the police knew the identity of the victim.

infer means “to deduce or conclude something that hasn’t been stated directly.” For example: I **inferred** from the newspaper that John was the victim.

**inquiry vs. enquiry**

inquiry and enquiry both mean “a request for information.”
inquiry is the standard American English spelling. enquiry is the British English spelling.

irregardless vs. regardless
irregardless is the nonstandard form for regardless. For example: Regardless of suspicion, we can never assume, let alone point at someone until an accusation is proven.

isle vs. aisle
isle is a variant of "island," meaning "land surrounded by water." For example: My dream vacation is a week with you on a desert isle.

an aisle is "a passage between seats (theater) or shelves (department store or supermarket)." For example: Cat food is located on aisle 17 in Publix.

incredible vs. incredulous
Incredible and incredulous are both adjectives. Incredible means "difficult or impossible to believe," as in "a movie telling an incredible story of survival," and "extremely good, great, or large," as in "the musician's incredible skill" and "a place of incredible beauty."

Incredulous means "not able or willing to believe something," as in "people were incredulous that the child had achieved the feat."

it’s vs. its
It’s is a contraction of "it is." Its is a possessive pronoun that means "belonging to it." For example: The dog is playing with its ball; it’s a joyful dog.

lay vs. lie vs. lie
To lay means "to put or to place." One way to remember this is that there is an a in both to lay and to place. For example: Posey will lay out her outfit before she goes to bed. Be careful, though. The past tense of to lay is laid. For example: Posey laid out her outfit.

to lie means "to recline." One way to remember this is that there is an e in both to lie and to recline. For example: Chester will lie down for a nap. The past tense of lie is lay. For example: Chester lay down for a nap over an hour ago.

“to lie also means to make an untrue statement with intent to deceive."
For example: She was laying when she said she didn't break the vase. He lied about his past experience. To lie also means to create a false or misleading impression. For example: Statistics sometimes lie. The mirror never lies.

**lead vs. led**

lead, a pronoun when it rhymes with "bed," refers to a type of metal. For example: Lead is a heavy, soft, malleable metal. For example: Posey wore a lead apron while the dentist X-rayed her teeth.

To lead is the present tense of the verb, rhyming with "feed." It means to guide or to be first; led is the past tense. For example: Chester will lead the hikers. For example: Chester led the way.

**learned vs. learnt**

learned is standard in US English. learnt is standard in British English.

**liable vs. libel**

liable is an adjective that can mean "legally responsible for something," as in "determining who is liable for the damage;" or "likely to be affected or harmed by something," as in "a condition that makes her liable to illness;" or "likely to do something," as in "you're liable to fall if you're not more careful."

Libel is a noun and a verb. As a noun it refers to the act of publishing a false statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone, as in "a newspaper found guilty of libel." As a verb it means "to write and publish a false statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone," as in "the jury found that the article libeled him."

**loose vs. lose**

Loose is most often used as an adjective with a variety of meanings that have to do, either literally or figuratively, with something not being tight or tightly fastened, attached, or held. Some examples are: "a loose tooth," "a loose belt," "loose rocks/papers," "a loose coalition." It is also used in various phrases like "break loose," "cut loose," and "let loose."

Additionally, it can be used as a verb meaning "to release or untie an animal or person" and "to make something less tight."

Lose is a verb with various meanings, typically having to do with being unable to find, keep, or hold something, as in "I keep losing my keys," "losing power," "lose money," "lost an advantage," and with failing to win something, as in...
"losing a game." It also appears in common phrases like "lose out," "lose it," "lose contact," and "lose your way."

**median vs. medium**

*median* and *medium* both function as nouns and adjectives. As a noun, *median* can refer to a grassy or paved area that divides a highway (also called "a median strip"), or, in mathematics, to the *middle* value in a series of values arranged from smallest to largest.

The adjective *median* is usually used in mathematics to mean "having a value that is in the middle of a series of values arranged from smallest to largest," as in "the median price of homes in the area."

*medium* as an adjective means "in the middle of a range of possible sizes, amounts, etc.," as in "a person of *medium* height" and "a *medium* blue."

The noun *medium* has several meanings, among them "something that is sold in a *medium* size," as in "I wear a *medium*," and "a particular form or system of communication (such as newspapers, radio, or television)," as in "an effective advertising *medium.*"

**moral vs. morale**

*moral* is a noun and an adjective. The noun refers to a lesson that is learned from a story or an experience, as in "the moral of the story is to appreciate what you have," and in its plural form, "*morals*" indicates proper ideas and beliefs about how to behave in a way that is considered right and good by most people, as in "I don't question her *morals."

The adjective is used with a variety of meanings having to do with right or wrong behavior, as in "*moral* issues/standards" and "*moral* conduct."

*morale* is a noun referring to the feelings of enthusiasm and loyalty that a person or group has about a task or job, as in "employee *morale* was high in the wake of the project's success."

**most vs. almost**

*most* is an adjective. For example: Ex: *Most* of her Halloween candy is chocolate.

*almost* is an adverb. For example: She was so eager to eat her Halloween candy that she *almost* ate the foil around the chocolates.
passed vs. past

passed is the past tense of the verb to pass.
the noun past means “a former time.”
For example: It was just past six o’clock when we passed Times Square station.

peace vs. piece

peace is a noun that has several meanings relating to an end to war or fighting or to a state of calm, as in "a wish for world peace," "looking for some peace and quiet," and "peace of mind." It is also used in phrases like "hold your peace" and "make peace with."

piece is a noun and a verb.

As a noun, piece has various meanings most of which have to do with a part, amount, or type of something, as in "a piece of pie," "a large piece of land," or "pieces of paper," and "a piece of land."

It’s also used in various phrases including "to pieces" and "say your piece."
The verb piece is typically used with “together” to express the idea of assembling parts or bringing them in close proximity, as in "piecing together scraps for the quilt" and "we pieced the facts of the story together."

pedal vs. peddle vs. petal

pedal is a noun that most often refers to a flat piece of metal, rubber, etc., that you push with your foot to make a machine move, work, or stop, as in "the bike’s pedals" and "the car’s brake pedal."

As a verb it typically means "to push the pedals of something, such as a bicycle," as in "pedaling faster and faster."

peddle is a verb that is usually used to mean "to sell something usually in small amounts and often by traveling to different places," as in "peddling fruits and vegetables from a roadside cart."

petal is one of the often brightly colored parts of a flower, as in “the petals on a rose are often red.”

personal vs. personnel

personal is an adjective often used to describe what belongs to or relates to a particular person, as in "personal property" and "my personal opinion," or to a person’s private thoughts, feelings, etc., as in "a very personal question."

personnel is a noun most often used to refer to people who work for a particular company or organization as in “all personnel must complete training.”
plain vs. plane

*plain* functions as an adjective, adverb, and noun. *plain* as an adjective often describes what lacks decoration, pattern, extra features, etc., as in "*plain* paper" or "a pair of *plain* shoes."

*plain* as an adverb, means "truly, completely," as in "it's just *plain* wrong."

The noun *plain* refers to a large area of flat land without trees.

*plane* most often functions as a noun referring to an airplane or to a flat surface.

pole vs. poll

*pole* is a noun. It can refer to a long, straight piece of wood, metal, etc., that is often placed in the ground so that it stands straight up.

*pole* can also refer to either end of the imaginary line around which something (such as the earth) turns, as in "the north/south *pole"; to either one of the two ends of a magnet; to the positive point or the negative point on a battery; or to either one of two opposite positions, situations, etc., as in "opposite *poles* of an argument."

*poll* functions as both a noun and a verb. As a noun it refers to an activity in which several or many people are asked a question or a series of questions in order to get information about what most people think about something. This noun use has a related verb use: a magazine might "conduct a *poll,*" and a magazine might "*poll* its readers."

The noun *poll* in its plural form "*polls*" refers to the record of votes that were made by people in an election or to the places where those people vote.

pore vs. poor vs. pour

*pore* functions as a verb meaning "to read or study something very carefully," as in "spent hours *poring* over the map."

As a noun it refers to a very small opening on the surface of your skin, which is called a *pore*.

*poor* is an adjective used to mean "having little money or few possessions," as in "a *poor* person," or to describe something of low quality like "*poor* soil", or someone of low skill such as "a *poor* player."

*pour* is a verb that means "to cause something to flow in a steady stream from or into a container or place," as in "*pour* a cup of coffee."
**pray vs. prey**

*pray* is a verb that is used to mean "to speak to a deity, especially in order to give thanks or to ask for something," as in "praying for forgiveness," as well as "to hope or wish very much for something to happen," as in "praying they will succeed."

*prey* is used as a noun to refer to an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food, as in "the owl's prey," or to someone who is a victim. It also functions as a verb meaning "to hunt," or "to hurt, cheat, or steal from someone," as in "thieves who prey on the city's tourists."

**preposition vs. proposition**

*preposition* and *proposition* are both nouns. *preposition* refers to a word (such as *in*, *on*, or *to*) that is used with a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, location, or time, or to introduce an object.

*proposition* is a noun that most often refers to a plan or offer that is presented to a person or group of people to consider, as in "a business proposition."

**precede vs. proceed**

The verb *precede* means "go before, to be more important than."
For example: Studying precedes knowledge.

The verb *proceed* means "go forth (after an interruption), to issue from a source, and to advance along a course."
For example: Knowledge proceeds from studying.

**prejudice vs. prejudiced**

*prejudice* is a noun.
For example: Prejudice has no place in a civilized society.

*prejudiced* is an adjective.
For example: To avoid a prejudiced jury pool, the judge moved the trial to another city.

**principal vs. principle**

*principal* means three things: “first in order of importance” or “main,” the administrator of a school,” and “the amount of an investment.”
For example: My principal ally at the school is the principal.

The noun *principle* means “a rule or law.”
For example: My principles don’t allow me to steal pencils from work.
quiet vs. quite

quiet functions as an adjective, verb, and noun.
As an adjective, it mostly describes things or people who make little noise, as in "a quiet engine" and "a quiet person," or a situation or event in which there is little noise," as in "a quiet dinner for two."

As a verb, it means "to make or become calmer or less noisy," as in "a lullaby to quiet the crying baby."

The noun quiet refers to the quality or state of being without noise, as in "the quiet of the house at midnight."

quite is an adverb that most often means "very," as in "quite tired;" "completely or entirely," as in "we quite agree;" or "exactly or precisely," as in "not quite what I said."

resume vs. résumé

resume is a verb that is usually used to mean "to begin again after stopping," as in "the musicians resumed playing."

résumé is a noun used to refer to a short document describing your education, work history, etc., that you give an employer when you are applying for a job.

right vs. rite vs. write

right functions as an adjective, adverb, noun, and verb.
Some common adjective uses are "morally or socially correct or acceptable," as in "the right thing to do," and "accurate or correct," as in "the right answer."

Adverbial uses include the directional "toward the right," as in "turn right," and "correctly," as in "you guessed right."

Among meanings of the noun right are "behavior that is morally good or correct," as in "knowing right from wrong," and "something that a person is or should be morally or legally allowed to have, get, or do," as in "human rights."

As a verb, right often means "to correct something wrong or unjust," as in "trying to right a wrong."

rite is a noun that refers to an act that is part of a ceremony, often religious, as in "funeral rites."

write is a verb with various meanings including "to form letters or numbers on a surface with a pen, pencil, etc.," as in "learning to write the alphabet," and "to create a book, poem, story, etc.," as in "writing a book about parrots."
role vs. roll

role is a noun that to refers to the character played by an actor, or to a part or function that someone has in a group, situation, etc., as in "scientists who had a role in finding a cure to the disease."

roll functions as a verb and a noun. As a verb it has various meanings relating to movement, especially by turning over and over, as in "a ball rolling down a hill," or in a smooth continuous movement, as in "clouds rolling past" and "a car rolling to a stop."

As a noun, roll often refers to a long piece of cloth, paper, film, tape, etc., that is rolled to form the shape of a tube or ring, as in "a roll of tape," or to a round sweet cake ("a cinnamon roll"), or to a deep continuous sound, as in "a roll of thunder."

stationary vs. stationery

stationary means unmoving. For example: The revolving door remained stationary because Posey was pushing on it the wrong way.

stationery refers to letter writing materials and especially to high quality paper. For example: Chester printed his résumé on his best stationery.

statue vs. stature vs. statute

statue, stature, and statute are all nouns. statue refers to a figure, usually of a person or animal, that is made from stone, metal, etc.

stature refers to the level of respect that people have for a successful person, organization, etc., as in "a writer of her stature," as well as to a person’s height, as in "a person of rather short stature."

statute refers to a written law that is formally created by a government, or to another kind of written rule or regulation.

than vs. then

than is used for comparisons. For example: Posey runs faster than Chester.

then is used to indicate time or sequence. For example: Posey took off running, and then Chester came along and finished her breakfast.

their vs. there vs. they’re

their is the possessive form of “they.”
For example: Chester and Posey took their time.

there indicates a place:
For example: It took them an hour to get there.

they’re is a contraction of “they are.”
For example: Are Chester and Posey coming? They’re almost here.
Ex: There are the bunnies that lay their own chocolate eggs; they’re going to be very popular at Easter time.

to vs. too vs. two

to is a preposition that can indicate direction.
For example: Posey walked to school.

to is also used in the infinitive form of verbs.
For example: Chester waited until the last minute to do his homework.

too is an adverb meaning “extremely, excessively, or in addition.”
For example: Posey waited too long to do her homework, too.

two is the cardinal number 2.
For example: The two girls were almost too giddy to go to the party.

toward vs. towards
toward is standard in US English.
toward is the preferred spelling in the United States and Canada.

towards is standard in British English.
In other English-speaking countries, such as the United Kingdom and Australia, towards is the more common spelling.

track vs. tract

track functions as a noun and a verb.
As a noun, it often refers to a mark left on the ground by a moving animal, person, or vehicle, as in "tire tracks," or to a pair of metal bars that a train, trolley, or subway car rides along, as in "train tracks."

The verb track often means "to follow and try to find an animal by looking for its tracks and other signs that show where it has gone," as in "hunters tracking deer," or "to follow and find someone or something especially by looking at evidence," as in "tracking the suspect."

tract is a noun that usually refers to a system of body parts or organs that has a particular purpose, as in "the digestive tract," or to an area of land.
try to vs. try and
Try to remember to use try to, not try and, as “and” indicates success at something, negating the need for the word “try.” “Try” indicates an attempt, not a success.

utmost vs. upmost
Both of these words can be used as adjectives, and they have similar meanings.
Utmost as an adjective means “situated at the farthest or most distant point” as in “the utmost distance from the sun.” It’s also used in the sense “of the greatest or highest degree, quantity, number, or amount” as in “with the utmost respect.”

Utmost can also be used as a noun meaning “the most possible; the extreme limit; the highest attainable point or degree” as in “presenting the utmost in modern technology” and “the highest, greatest, or best of one's abilities, powers, and resources” as in “the utmost in customer care service.”

Upmost is a shortening of the word “uppermost” and means “situated in the highest or most prominent position” as in “the upmost floor of the house.”

One way to remember the difference is that upmost cannot be used as a noun.

waist vs. waste
Waist is a noun that refers to the middle part of your body between the hips and chest or upper back, or to the part of a piece of clothing that fits around your waist.

Waste is a verb that means "to use something valuable in a way that is not necessary or effective," as in "trying not to waste water."

As a noun, waste often refers to material that is left over or that is unwanted after something has been made, done, used, etc., as in "industrial waste."

wander vs. wonder
Wander is a verb used to mean "to move around or go to different places usually without having a particular purpose or direction," as in "wandering through the meadow."

Wonder functions as both a noun and a verb.
As a noun it often means "a feeling caused by seeing something that is very surprising, beautiful, amazing, etc.," as in "staring up at the monument in wonder." As a verb it frequently means "to think about something with curiosity," as in "wondering about the city’s history."

weather vs. whether
Weather means “atmospheric conditions.”
**whether** is the first part of the correlative **whether...or**.
For example: We couldn’t tell **whether** or not the **weather** was going to improve enough to play frisbee.

**where vs. were**
**where** is an adverb expressing place, not time or circumstance.
For example: “**Where** is the end of this absurdly long line?” she asked.

Example when **where** is misused: He was in a predicament **where** his patience was tested.
Correct usage should be: He was in a predicament **in which** his patience was tested.
Another correct example: He was in a place **where** a suit was considered an alien fashion form.

**were** is a verb and is the simple past of “to be.”
For example: The people in line **were** not answering her question.

**who vs. which vs. that**
The relative pronoun **who** refers to people.
For example: Students **who** eat in class must do extra homework.

**which** and **that** refer to animals and things.
For example: The cat to **which** I am referring is very cute.
For example: The book **that** is on the end table is a thriller.

**who’s vs. whose**
**who’s** is the contraction of “**who is.**”
For example: **Who’s** at the door?

**whose** is a possessive pronoun that means “belonging to (someone).”
For example: **Whose** keys are in the refrigerator?

**your vs. you’re**
**your** (plural “**yours**”) is the possessive of **you**.
For example: Here are **your** keys. They are **yours** not mine.

**you’re** is the contraction of **you are**.
For example: **You’re** correct when you say that **your** temper is unpredictable.

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**Sources:**
Grammarly blog and Merriam Webster online dictionary