

## PAIRS OF WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED



**Choose the correct word for each space below.**

### 1 lose/loose

- (a) Look after that money or you'll \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- (b) That screw is a bit \_\_\_\_\_. You'd better tighten it.
- (c) The opposite of 'to find' is 'to \_\_\_\_\_'.
- (d) I tied the dog to a tree but it got \_\_\_\_\_ and ran away.

### 2 their/there

- (a) The students brought \_\_\_\_\_ books.
- (b) They are having \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast.
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ are my friends!
- (d) It's a nice place. I often go \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 advice/advise

- (a) I \_\_\_\_\_ you to see a doctor.
- (b) She didn't listen to her father's \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) I'm very grateful to you for your \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) I really don't know what to \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4 practice/practise

- (a) They need more \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) They're pianists. They \_\_\_\_\_ six hours a day.
- (c) You won't increase your typing speed if you don't get more \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) She took a job in a travel agency to \_\_\_\_\_ her languages.

### 5 weather/whether

- (a) I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ to see that film or not.
- (b) Their holiday was spoilt by bad \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) What's the \_\_\_\_\_ like? Is it sunny?
- (d) She can't decide \_\_\_\_\_ she ought to marry him.

**6 beside/besides**

- (a) The post office is \_\_\_\_\_ the cinema.
- (b) They always sit \_\_\_\_\_ each other in class.
- (c) There are several big parks in London \_\_\_\_\_ Hyde Park.
- (d) What languages does he speak \_\_\_\_\_ English?

**7 stationery/stationary**

- (a) The bus stood \_\_\_\_\_ in the traffic jam for 20 minutes.
- (b) The teacher got some paper from the school \_\_\_\_\_ cupboard.
- (c) The weather system over Western Europe has been \_\_\_\_\_ for two days.
- (d) The office staff were told to use paper more carefully, since the \_\_\_\_\_ bill the month before had been very high.

**8 accept/agree**

- (a) He thinks she's beautiful but I don't \_\_\_\_\_ with him.
- (b) This machine does not \_\_\_\_\_ damaged coins.
- (c) They will only \_\_\_\_\_ to do the job if you pay them first.
- (d) He cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that his wife is dead.

**9 comprehensive/understanding**

- (a) A priest is normally a patient, \_\_\_\_\_ person.
- (b) It's a very \_\_\_\_\_ book. It covers all aspects of the subject.
- (c) London taxi drivers have a very \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of the city.
- (d) Whatever stupid things he did, his mother was always \_\_\_\_\_ and she forgave him.

**10 sensible/sensitive**

- (a) It's \_\_\_\_\_ to save part of your salary every month.
- (b) Don't laugh at him. He's very \_\_\_\_\_ about his appearance.
- (c) It's cold. I think it would be \_\_\_\_\_ to take a warm coat with you.
- (d) My skin is very \_\_\_\_\_ to the sun. Film is \_\_\_\_\_ to light

**11 actually/now**

- (a) Ten years ago he had nothing; \_\_\_\_\_ he is a millionaire.
- (b) I've lost contact with him. I don't know where he is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) Is that necklace \_\_\_\_\_ made of gold?

(d) Tell me the truth. What \_\_\_\_\_ happened?

**12 control/check**

- (a) The police were unable to \_\_\_\_\_ the football fans, who ran on to the pitch fighting and shouting.
- (b) An inspector came along the train to \_\_\_\_\_ all the tickets.
- (c) He's really a wild boy. His parents can't \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- (d) I advise you to \_\_\_\_\_ all your exam answers before you hand your paper in.

**13 teacher/professor**

- (a) The \_\_\_\_\_ told his class to do their homework carefully.
- (b) When I was at school I had a very good history \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) He taught at the university for many years but he never became a \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_ Bolton is head of the Chemistry Faculty at the University of York.

**14 affect/effect**

- (a) The punishment had no \_\_\_\_\_ on him. As soon as he left prison he began to steal again.
- (b) The new taxes will \_\_\_\_\_ the rich, they'll have to pay more.
- (c) The higher bus fares won't \_\_\_\_\_ me. I have a car.
- (d) The medicine had an immediate \_\_\_\_\_ I felt better at once.

**15 past/passed**

- (a) I've \_\_\_\_\_ the exam!
- (b) She \_\_\_\_\_ the post office on her way home, but forgot to go in.
- (c) The thief hid in a doorway and the policeman ran \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- (d) It was \_\_\_\_\_ midnight when I finally got to bed.

**16 economic/economical**

- (a) It isn't very \_\_\_\_\_ to leave the lights on when you're not in the room.
- (b) Because of the recent strikes, the \_\_\_\_\_ situation of the country is very bad.
- (c) She's an economist. She's an expert in \_\_\_\_\_ matters.
- (d) It's a very \_\_\_\_\_ little car. It uses very little petrol.

**17 principal/principle(s)**

- (a) Telling lies is against his \_\_\_\_\_.

- (b) He believed in the \_\_\_\_\_ that all men are equal.
- (c) Mr Williams is the \_\_\_\_\_ of this college.
- (d) Oxford Street is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ shopping streets of London.

**18 grateful/thankful**

- (a) I'm very \_\_\_\_\_ to you for your help.
- (b) He was very ashamed of what he had done and was \_\_\_\_\_ that his family didn't know about it.
- (c) We were all \_\_\_\_\_ that the weather was good for the picnic.
- (d) She was very \_\_\_\_\_ to her parents for their advice and support.

**19 lend/borrow**

- (a) Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me some money till Monday?
- (b) Britain had to \_\_\_\_\_ some money from the World Bank.
- (c) We \_\_\_\_\_ books from the library.
- (d) I'll \_\_\_\_\_ you my car if you promise to drive carefully.

**20 quite/quiet**

- (a) It's noisy here. Let's find a \_\_\_\_\_ place.
- (b) I'm \_\_\_\_\_ satisfied, thank you.
- (c) Sometimes she longed for the peace and \_\_\_\_\_ of the country.
- (d) He hadn't \_\_\_\_\_ finished when I came in.

**21 canal(s)/channel**

- (a) The shortest sea-route from Europe to India is through the Suez \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) Before railways the \_\_\_\_\_ between cities were important routes of transport.
- (c) The seaway between Britain and France is often called the English \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) He was bored by the television programme so he changed to a different \_\_\_\_\_.

**22 priceless/valueless**

- (a) The painting turned out to be \_\_\_\_\_, so I threw it away.
- (b) The Crown Jewels of the Royal Family cannot be insured. They are \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) The contents of the British Museum are, of course, \_\_\_\_\_. They are of incalculable value.
- (d) Although these stamps are \_\_\_\_\_, I like them for their colour and design.



**23 invaluable/worthless**

- (a) A cassette-recorder is \_\_\_\_\_ in a pronunciation class.
- (b) Thank you so much for your advice. It was \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) The Information was completely false, quite \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) These bank notes are no longer in use. I'm afraid they're \_\_\_\_\_.

**24 continuously/continually**

- (a) She is \_\_\_\_\_ coming late!
- (b) It rained \_\_\_\_\_ for three hours this morning.
- (c) The firemen worked \_\_\_\_\_ through the night to put out the flames.
- (d) I'm afraid you \_\_\_\_\_ make the same mistakes in your work.

**25 hard/hardly**

- (a) She's a \_\_\_\_\_ worker.
- (b) She works very \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) I was so tired I could \_\_\_\_\_ speak.
- (d) He had \_\_\_\_\_ got home when the phone rang.

**26 avoid/prevent**

- (a) I try to \_\_\_\_\_ travelling in the rush hour. It's so tiring.
- (b) The police managed to \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd from moving forward
- (c) We must do something to \_\_\_\_\_ such a thing happening again.
- (d) He swerved to the left to \_\_\_\_\_ the car coming towards him.

**27 maybe/may be**

- (a) We don't know where he is. He \_\_\_\_\_ in America.
- (b) We don't know where he is. \_\_\_\_\_ he's in America.
- (c) He's not in the office today. \_\_\_\_\_ he's ill.
- (d) It \_\_\_\_\_ that he's still in France. I don't know.

**28 rise rose risen/raise raised raised**

*e.g. Taxes will rise.*

*He raised his hat.*

*The sun rises in the east.*

*Prices will be raised by many shopkeepers.*

*When the President entered, everyone rose.*

*Raise your hand if you have a question.*

*Their hopes are rising.*

**Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.**

- (a) They \_\_\_\_\_ (rose/raised) their glasses and drank to the happy couple.
- (b) Of course prices always \_\_\_\_\_ (rise/raise) in a time of inflation.
- (c) The smoke \_\_\_\_\_ (rose/raised) high into the air.
- (d) College fees will be \_\_\_\_\_ (risen/raised) from next September.
- (e) The two parts of Tower Bridge \_\_\_\_\_ (rise/raise) to allow ships to go through.
- (f) The two parts of the bridge are \_\_\_\_\_ (risen/raised) by very powerful machinery.
- (g) She couldn't hear him so he \_\_\_\_\_ (rose/raised) his voice.
- (h) The water level has \_\_\_\_\_ (risen/raised) six inches in the last three days.
- (i) The number of deaths in traffic accidents \_\_\_\_\_ (rises/raises) every year.
- (j) He \_\_\_\_\_ (rose/raised) his head and looked at her.

**29 steal stole stolen/rob robbed robbed**

*e.g. Someone stole £10 from her.                      A gang robbed the bank of £10,000.*  
*£10 was stolen from her.                      The bank was robbed of £10,000.*

**Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.**

- (a) He \_\_\_\_\_ (stole/robbed) a bottle of whisky from the shop.
- (b) He was stopped and \_\_\_\_\_ (stolen/robbed) by two armed men.
- (c) Two banks were \_\_\_\_\_ (stolen/robbed) last week.
- (d) If you leave your money there, it'll be \_\_\_\_\_ (stolen/robbed).
- (e) Someone's \_\_\_\_\_ (stolen/robbed) my wallet!
- (f) They were planning to \_\_\_\_\_ (steal/rob) a shop.
- (g) She \_\_\_\_\_ (stole/robbed) some clothes from her employers.
- (h) We've been \_\_\_\_\_ (stolen/robbed). Look, all our silver's gone!
- (i) In the old days they used to hang people who \_\_\_\_\_ (stole/robbed) sheep.

**30 lie lay lain/lay laid laid**

*e.g. Switzerland lies in central Europe.                      Lay the books on the table.*  
*He lay down on the grass.                      He laid his hand on my shoulder.*  
*His clothes were lying on the floor.                      The hen has laid an egg.*  
*It had lain hidden for centuries.                      The bricks were laid badly.*

**Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.**

- (a) Windsor \_\_\_\_\_ (lies/lays) on the Thames west of London.

- (b) She gave the baby a kiss and \_\_\_\_\_ (lay/laid) it on the bed.
- (c) Hurry up! \_\_\_\_\_ (Lie/Lay) the table!
- (d) The dogs entered the room and \_\_\_\_\_ (lay/laid) down near the fire.
- (e) He had \_\_\_\_\_ (lain/laid) on the pavement for twenty minutes before help came.
- (f) He ordered the dog to \_\_\_\_\_ (lie/lay) the newspaper at his feet.
- (g) He ordered the dog to \_\_\_\_\_ (lie/lay) down.
- (h) This table has been carelessly \_\_\_\_\_ (lain/laid).
- (i) All his belongings were \_\_\_\_\_ (lying/laying) in a mess on the floor.
- (j) The porter had to \_\_\_\_\_ (lie/lay) the luggage down and take a breath.
- (k) The Queen \_\_\_\_\_ (lay/laid) the foundation stone of this building in 1965.
- (l) The soldiers ordered the terrorists to \_\_\_\_\_ (lie/lay) down their arms, and then to \_\_\_\_\_ (lie/lay) down on the ground with their hands behind their backs.

### 31 remember/remind

*e.g. I remember meeting you in Paris last year.*

*Please remember to turn off the lights when you go.*

*Sorry, I can't remember your name.*

*I hope he remembers he must phone me.*

*Please remind me to post this letter.*

*You remind me of my brother.*

*I must remind you that the exam is next week.*

*Did you remind her about our meeting tomorrow?*

**Choose the correct verb in each sentence below.**

- (a) What's Sandra's phone number? I can't \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind).
- (b) Some parts of the city \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) me of my home town.
- (c) I must \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) to get some stamps from the post office today.
- (d) I \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) coming here when I was a child.
- (e) She \_\_\_\_\_ (remembered/reminded) the class to be at the station early for the trip to the seaside.
- (f) He's very forgetful. His children always have to \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) him about his wife's birthday.
- (g) Please \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) that the ABC Company is our most important



customer.

- (h) I have to \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) you that our business with the ABC Company is very important to us.
- (i) Do you \_\_\_\_\_ (remember/remind) if I locked the door when we left the house?
- (j) There's John! Oh, that \_\_\_\_\_ (remembers/reminds) me! He owes me some money.

### ONE WORD OR TWO?

*Choose the correct word or two-word phrase to put in the sentences which follow each pair of expressions.*

**maybe                  may be**

- (a) I don't know where he is. He \_\_\_\_\_ at the shops.
- (b) I don't know where he is. \_\_\_\_\_ he's at the shops.

**alright                  all right**

- (c) How are you? Are you \_\_\_\_\_?
- (d) The exam questions were easy. She got them \_\_\_\_\_.

**altogether              all together**

- (e) There were three adults and five children. That's eight people \_\_\_\_\_.
- (f) Shall we go there separately or shall we go \_\_\_\_\_?

**sometimes              some times**

- (g) \_At \_\_\_\_\_ in the year the hotel is full.
- (h) \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel is full.

**already                  all ready**

- (i) \_Have you finished \_\_\_\_\_?
- (j) \_The children were \_\_\_\_\_ to leave.

**everyone                every one**

- (k) \_\_\_\_\_ came to the party with a present for Jim.
- (l) \_He has 28 shirts, and \_\_\_\_\_ is hand-made.

**anyone                  any one**

- (m) Has \_\_\_\_\_ got a pen to lend me?
- (n) \_They have 75 nuclear bombs and \_\_\_\_\_ of them has the power to destroy an entire city.



**nobody**      **no body**

- (o) - Despite an intensive hunt for the murder victim \_\_\_\_\_ was ever found.  
(p) \_\_\_\_\_ admitted responsibility for the crime.

**everyday**      **every day**

- (q) There's no need to dress up specially. Just wear your \_\_\_\_\_ clothes.  
(r) He goes to the office by train \_\_\_\_\_.