Confusing words & false friends 1

Confusing words **are two or more words which:**

(a) have a similar meaning to each other but which are used in a different way

or

(b) are related to the same topic, but have a different meaning

or

(c) look similar, but have a different meaning.

False friends are words in English which have a similar-looking word in another language, but which have a different meaning.

Complete the following sentence pairs with the appropriate word.

1. **aboard / abroad**

   More and more people go *abroad* for their holiday.
   In 2002, she became the first woman to travel *aboard* the space shuttle *Discovery*.

2. **action / activity**

   We decided to take immediate ..... when we realised there was a problem.
   The environmental changes in the area are the result of human ..... .

3. **advice / advise**

   Can you ..... me on the best course of action to take?
   He offered me some excellent ..... .

4. **affect / effect**

   Diverting the course of the river will have a major ..... on the local ecosystem.
   Frequent traffic jams in the suburbs seriously ..... journey times into the city.

5. **appreciable / appreciative**

   Widening the road made an ..... difference to the flow of traffic.
   The applause at the end of the concert was warm and ..... .

6. **avoid / prevent**

   Rapid international action managed to ..... an environmental disaster from taking place.
   There are areas in the city that are wise to ..... after dark.

7. **beside / besides**

   The company's main office is ..... the railway station.
   ..... their regular daytime job, many people do extra work in the evening.

8. **briefly /shortly**

   ..... before the earthquake began, many animals were seen to be behaving in an unusual manner.
   She spoke ..... but passionately about the need to help those in developing countries.

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9. **canal / channel**

   A ..... system joined the two main rivers, which made transporting goods much quicker.
   When television first became popular in the early 1950s, there was only one ..... .

10. **conscientious / conscious**

    Most people are ..... of the need to protect the environment.

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..... workers should be rewarded for their hard work.

11. **considerable / considerate**

In my opinion, some people are not very ..... of those around them.
A ..... amount of money was spent on developing the product.

12. **continual / continuous**

The computer system has given us ..... problems ever since we installed it. Some days it works, other days it doesn't.
The ..... noise from the new motorway has forced many people to move.

13. **control / inspect**

New teachers often find it difficult to ..... their classes.
Environmental health inspectors regularly ..... commercial kitchens for cleanliness, especially those in restaurants.

14. **criticism / objection**

I have no ..... to people using their mobile phones on buses or trains.
Plans for the new stadium have attracted fierce ..... from local people.

15. **damage / harm / injury**

He suffered a serious ..... which needed immediate hospital treatment.
The low levels of dangerous chemicals in the river were enough to cause ....., to aquatic life.

A lot of ..... was caused to buildings along the coast during the storm.

16. **during / for / while**

The college closes ..... two weeks at the end of December.
He died ..... trying to cross the desert alone.

Many creatures stay underground ..... daylight hours.

17. **however / moreover**

The plan was good in theory. ....., in practice it was extremely difficult to implement.
The plan was excellent. ....., it was clear from the beginning that it was going to attract a lot of interest.

18. **injured / wounded**

I believe that we should do more to help and support soldiers who have been ..... in combat.
Several workers were ..... when the drilling platform collapsed.

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