

Confusing pairs and false friends

Confusing pairs are two words which have a similar meaning to each other, but are used in a different way.

or are related to the same topic, but have a different meaning.

or look similar, but have a different meaning

A false friend is a word in English which has a similar-looking word in another language but which has a different meaning.

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate word.

1. actually / now
Please can we go home _____ ?
It looks quite small, but _____ it is over five metres high.
2. advice / advise
My grandfather gave me a very useful piece of _____.
I _____ you to put all your money into a deposit account.
3. affect / effect
The cuts in spending will have a serious _____ on the hospital.
The strike will seriously _____ the train service.
4. already / yet
I haven't seen her _____ this morning.
I've _____ done my shopping.
5. afraid of / worried about
I am _____ snakes.
She's _____ the baby; he doesn't look very well.
6. avoid / prevent
The police will _____ anyone from leaving the building.
You should travel early to _____ the traffic jams.
7. beside / besides
Come and sit down _____ me.
_____ managing the shop, he also teaches in the evening.
8. bring / fetch
It's your turn to _____ the children from school.
Don't forget to _____ the books to school with you.
9. chance / possibility
Our team has a good _____ of winning tonight.
There is always the _____ that the plane will be early.
10. channel / canal
You can take a boat trip around the _____s of Amsterdam.
Can you switch the television to _____ 4 for the news?
England and France are separated by the _____.