

CONFUSED WORDS WITH P-R

OBSOLESCE / OBSOLETE

1. Gas lamps became _____ when electric lighting was invented.
2. Much of our existing military hardware is _____.
3. The hostel at Waterbank has served a purpose for 40 years but is now _____.
4. So much equipment becomes _____ almost as soon as it's made.

OFFICIAL / OFFICIOUS

1. Yesterday I received an _____ letter concerning my income tax.
2. He is an _____ little man and widely disliked in the company.
3. Number Ten Downing Street is the British prime minister's _____ residence.
4. Bustling about self-importantly he was making an _____ nuisance of himself.

ONLY / UNIQUE

1. I was the _____ one who disagreed.
2. Each person's genetic code is _____ except in the case of identical twins.
3. It was a _____ opportunity to study these rare creatures.
4. She was the _____ woman doctor in the district.

OPPORTUNITY / OPTION / POSSIBILITY

1. I was never given the _____ of going to college.
2. The best _____ would be to cancel the trip altogether.
3. This walk provides the _____ of seeing some beautiful countryside.
4. Is there any _____ that you could pick me up from the station?
5. They didn't leave him much _____ - either he paid or they'd beat him up.
6. It's not likely to happen but I wouldn't rule out the _____.

OTHER / OTHERS / THE OTHER / ANOTHER

1. We don't need those books, we need _____ ones.
2. The investigation will take _____ two weeks.
3. Some children learn quickly but _____ children need more time.
4. Please give me _____ chance. I promise to try harder.
5. 80% of the students arrive on time. The _____ are always late.
6. You've already had an ice-cream. You can't have _____ one.

OUTBREAK / OUTBURST

1. Last month there was an _____ of the bird flu.
2. Her comments provoked an _____ of anger from the boss.
3. Forgive my _____ last week.
4. On the _____ of war he expected to be called up.

OVER / ABOVE

1. The car was going _____ a hundred miles an hour.
2. He broke his arm _____ the elbow.
3. The thaw is setting in _____ zero degrees Celsius.
4. He must be _____ seventy by now.

OVERDO / OVERDUE

1. Winemakers can _____ the colour extraction and thus spoil the flavour.
2. There is a slight sting in the tale for borrowers of library books that are _____, however.
3. After a heart attack you have to be careful not to _____ things.
4. Teachers have joined a strike aimed at forcing the government to pay _____ salaries and allowances.
5. *She was born two weeks _____ at 10.08 am on January 29.*
6. It is important never to _____ new exercises.

PACKAGE / PACKET

1. The courier has just delivered a _____ for you.
2. Don't forget to buy 2 _____ of biscuits.
3. He wrote the number on the back of a cigarette _____.

4. Tom opened the brown paper wrapped _____ slowly, and undid the tape on a box inside of it.

PASS AWAY / PASS OUT

1. It was sweltering and she _____ from the heat.
2. After a short illness, he _____ peacefully in the night.
3. Martin successfully _____ at the Royal Marines training centre in Devon. (s.p.)
4. He was the first member of my family to _____ quite young.

PAST / PASSED

1. I've _____ the exam!
2. She _____ the post office on her way home, but forgot to go in.
3. The thief hid in a doorway and the policeman ran _____ him.
4. It was _____ midnight when I finally got to bed.

PATIENCE / PATIENT'S / PATIENTS

1. A number of _____ have been successfully treated with the new drug.
2. Their youngest son was beginning to try my _____.
3. Just like any doctor, we take a _____ medical details and allergies before a consultation.
4. He's a good teacher, but he doesn't have much _____ with the slower pupils.
5. The hospital was extremely busy, so the _____ had to have _____.
6. There has been no significant change in the _____ condition.

PEDAL / PEDDLE

1. The products are generally _____ door to door.
2. We were _____ like mad against the wind, but didn't seem to be getting anywhere.
3. Further tests are planned on gas, brake and clutch _____.
4. The organization has _____ the myth that they are supporting the local population.

PERPETRATE / PERPETUATE

1. The aim of the association is to _____ the skills of traditional furniture design.
2. In this country, half of all violent crime is _____ by people who have been drinking alcohol.
3. Federal soldiers have been accused of _____ atrocities against innocent people.
4. Increasing the supply of weapons will only _____ the violence and anarchy.

PERSECUTE / PROSECUTE

1. Religious minorities were _____ and massacred during the ten-year regime.
2. His latest film is about the experience of being _____ for being gay.
3. People who hand in illegal weapons will not be _____ during the amnesty.
4. And he is not - Roosevelt could _____ that war and obviously did it effectively.

PERSONAL / PERSONNEL

1. The new director is likely to make major changes in _____.
2. Her uncle takes a _____ interest in her progress.
3. I will give the matter my _____ attention.
4. The _____ department will help you find a flat to rent.

PERSPECTIVE / PROSPECTIVE

1. When his _____ employers learned that he smoked, they said they wouldn't hire him.
2. Because of its geographical position, Germany's _____ on the situation in Russia is very different from Washington's.
3. You must keep things in _____ - the overall situation isn't really that bad.
4. We've had three sets of _____ buyers looking at the house.
5. In 15th-century Italy, artists rediscovered the rules of _____.

PERVERSE / PERVERTED

1. Jack was being _____ and refusing to agree with anything we said.
2. He used a _____ form of socialism to incite racial hatred.
3. She took a _____ pleasure in hearing that her sister was getting divorced.
4. She told him he had a sick and _____ mind.

POLITIC / POLITICS

1. You're right and my articulation of what I wanted to say was not _____.
2. She's not interested in _____. She never votes in the elections.
3. Her _____ have become more liberal over the past few years.
4. It was not _____ to ask any more questions at that point.

POSTAGE / POSTAL

1. The cost of the book is 6 pounds plus one pound for _____.
2. The _____ services won't be working tomorrow because it's a national holiday.
3. I stuck a 50p _____ stamp on the envelope.
4. You can pay by cheque or _____ order.
5. The man went _____ and shot five of his colleagues.

PRACTICABLE / PRACTICAL

1. She is _____ and buys only what she can afford.
2. The troops will be brought home as soon as _____.
3. It's simply not _____ to divide the work between so many people.
4. It is not _____ to complete the tunnel before the end of the year.
5. I tend to wear clothes that are _____ rather than fashionable.

PRECEDENCE / PRECEDENTS

1. There are several _____ for promoting people who don't have formal qualifications.
2. _____ must be given to the injured in the evacuation plans.
3. There are plenty of _____ in Hollywood for letting people out of contracts.
4. The order of _____ for titled nobility in Britain is duke, marquis, earl, viscount, baron.

PREMIER / PREMIERE

1. The world _____ of the opera will be at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.
2. It's what Google needs in order to remain the _____ search engine.
3. The Prime Minister will also discuss this with the Chinese _____ during his forthcoming visit to the UK.
4. The film based on the first book of the series - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone - will _____ next week.

PRESCRIBE / PROSCRIBE

1. The Athletics Federation has banned the runner from future races for using _____ drugs.
2. The doctor _____ some medicine and told her to have a week's rest.
3. Grammatical rules _____ how words may be used together.
4. Torture and summary execution of political prisoners are _____ by international law.

PRESCRIPTION / RECEIPT

1. The surgeon gives the patient a _____ for supervised physical therapy.
2. Make sure you are given a _____ for everything you buy.
3. I was given the wrong tablets when the chemist misread my _____.
4. Save your _____ and each evening write down your expenses for the day.

PRESENCE / PRESENTS

1. She _____ a monthly magazine programme on the BBC.
2. The children squealed in delight when they saw all the _____ under the Christmas tree.
3. The _____ of pollen in the atmosphere causes hay fever in some people.
4. His daughter's _____ seemed to fill her empty bedroom.
5. This summer school _____ an opportunity to experience all aspects of dance.
6. There was a strong police _____ at the demonstration.
7. He stood there in the corner of the room, a dark, brooding _____.
8. In effect, Parsons _____ us with a beguilingly simple outline of social evolution.

PRICELESS / VALUELESS / INVALUABLE / WORTHLESS

1. The crown was studded with _____ jewels
2. Unfortunately, the ring I had thought was valuable turned out to be _____.
3. They paid a lot of money for the painting not knowing it was a _____ fake
4. Thank you for your _____ help in this project.

5. He was of no help to me at all. He made a few _____ comments and left.
6. You should have seen the look on her face when I told her - it was _____!

PRINCIPAL / PRINCIPLE

1. He refused to give me any more money as a matter of _____.
2. Schools try to teach children a set of _____.
3. A small school with just three teachers and the _____ is just what we need.
4. He can't give up teaching, it's his _____ source of income.

PRIZE / PRICE / PRISE

1. He robbed a bank. Now he has to pay the _____.
2. Sally almost won the first _____ in the beauty contest.
3. The burglar _____ the window and climbed through.
4. Can you guess the asking _____ of this house?

PROFIT / PROPHET

1. She makes a big _____ from selling waste material to textile companies.
2. Let us hear the words of the _____ Isaiah on the coming of the Prince of Peace.
3. He's been in business five years, but has not yet turned a _____.
4. There's no _____ to be gained from endlessly discussing whose fault it was.
5. He is repeatedly hailed as a _____ of modernism.

RAVAGE / RAVISH

1. She would be too ashamed to confide in the abbess about how she was _____ by a stranger.
2. Younger women are also not immune to the _____ of this disease.
3. Almost miraculously, these structures were spared the _____ of the 1906 earthquake.
4. One night a wolf comes and kills many chickens and _____ a lamb.

RATIONAL / RATIONALE

1. He's asking you to look at both sides of the case and come to a _____ decision.
2. He tried to explain the scientific _____ behind his work.
3. Mary was able to short-circuit her stress response by keeping her thoughts calm and _____.
4. However, the _____ for such initiatives is not, of course, solely economic.

REAL / REEL

1. The _____ difficulty was the language, because my children don't speak English.
2. Greg got up and looked at the film _____ in the projector.
3. Most modern kings and queens rule their countries only in a formal way, without _____ power.
4. He realized that he'd finally caught a _____ fish, so he tried to _____ it in.
5. He knew thousands of place names by heart, and he could _____ them off.

REALITY / REALTY

1. I like the idea of living in the countryside but I'm not sure I'd like the _____.
2. Our _____ agent says the sales contract is valid.
3. He escaped from _____ by going to the cinema every afternoon.
4. The city of Mount Vernon was founded in 1851 by several _____ companies.

RECEIPT / RECIPE

1. If you've got your _____, you can usually exchange the goods.
2. You need a can of tuna for this _____.
3. Goods will be delivered on _____ of payment.
4. For real South Asian food, just follow these _____.

RECOURSE / RESOURCE

1. It is hoped that the dispute will be settled without _____ to litigation.
2. He can't cope with difficult situations on his own - he has no inner _____.
3. The French Minister added: 'The use of force can only be a final _____.'
4. The company is reconsidering the way in which it deploys its _____.
5. Where a person will go to jail trials must be properly _____ on both sides.

REGRETFUL / REGRETTABLE

1. It is most _____ that Mr Johnson has decided to resign.
2. I'm _____ that our relation ended this way.

3. Your choice of friends is most _____.
4. We are not _____ about leaving this town.

RELATION / RELATIONSHIP

1. Studies show that there is a strong _____ between income and mental health.
2. _____ between China and the United States are tense at the moment.
3. How is your _____ with your father?
4. All our friends and _____ came to our wedding.

REMEMBER / REMIND

1. She _____ seeing him leave an hour ago.
2. I need the notes to _____ me what to say.
3. That song always _____ me of our holiday in Mexico.
4. I _____ that I was really nervous on my first day at school.

RESPECTFULLY / RESPECTIVELY

1. George and Kenneth were married in 1980 and 1985, _____.
 2. When she was asked if she had any ambition to become prime minister, she _____ declined to answer the question.
 3. As the body was carried through the crowd, people drew back _____.
- A group of human heroes and villains set out to _____ save or exploit the situation.

RESTIVE / RESTLESS

1. During the trip, they had grown _____, quarrelsome, and hungry.
2. He's a _____ type - he never stays in one country for long.
3. She spent a _____ night, tossing and turning.
4. The audience was becoming _____ as they waited for the performance to begin.

REVIEW / REVUE

1. With exams approaching, it's a good idea to _____ your class notes.
2. Anyone who has seen a _____ of their sketches knows how deliriously funny their work can be.
3. Do you go out of your way to seek out _____ in newspapers and magazines?
4. Do not look here for wit, satire, or dazzling invention, in which the old-time _____ abounded.
5. In yesterday's military _____, the army presented the largest parade of troops in recent years to President Chen.

RIDE / DRIVE

1. Can I _____ with you ? I don't have a car.
2. The _____ to my parents' house takes 20 minutes.
3. Most children like to _____ on trains.
4. Can you _____ ? I'm too tired.

RIFFLE / RIFLE

1. He _____ through a few pages, his eyes quickly following the lines.
2. Police officers carrying semi-automatic _____ rode the capital's Metro subway trains.
3. While Tom _____ through the address book, little Kevin butted in with the numbers.
4. If you might have to fire a _____ or shotgun indoors, keep your hearing protection near the gun.

RISE / RAISE

1. He _____ed his voice in anger.
2. The sun _____ in the East.
3. The host was very friendly. He _____ to welcome us.
4. We were born and _____ in New York.