

## CONFUSED WORDS WITH P-R

### OBSOLESCENT / 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.