

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 _____.