

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

False friends are words in English which have a similar-looking word in another language but which have 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 5 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. avoid / prevent

The police will _____ anyone from leaving the building.

You should travel early to _____ the traffic jams.

5. beside / besides

Come and sit down _____ me.

_____ managing the shop, he also teaches in the evening.

6. chance / possibility

Our team has a good _____ of winning tonight.

There is always the _____ that the plane will be early.

7. 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 _____.

8. conduct / direct

Von Karajan will _____ the Berlin Symphonic Orchestra at the concert.

It took two policemen to _____ the traffic.

9. continuous / continual

She has been in _____ pain for three days.

I am getting fed up with her _____ complaints.

10. fun / funny

I didn't have much _____ on my birthday.

He made _____ faces and made the children laugh.

11. harm / damage

Don't _____ my sunglasses if you borrow them.

He didn't mean to _____ your little girl.

12. invent / discover

Did Alexander Fleming _____ penicillin?

When did she _____ the new computer terminal?

13. kind / sympathetic

You should always be _____ to little children.

I'm very _____ to her problems.

14. lay / lie

I'm very tired; I'll just go and _____ down for a few minutes.

My father is going to _____ a new carpet in the dining room.

15. lend / borrow

Can I _____ you car to go to the shops?

He asked me if I would _____ him £5 till Monday.

16. nature / countryside

We must try to protect _____ and the environment.

The English _____ is beautiful in spring.

17. priceless / valueless

Be very careful with that painting; it's _____.

Her jewels were all imitations; they were quite _____.

18. principal / principle

She refuses to eat meat on _____.

The _____ wants to see you in her office.

The country's _____ products are paper and wood.

We talked about the _____s of nuclear physics.

19. raise / rise

Does the sun _____ in the east or the west?

The airline are going to _____ their fares again next year.

20. recipe / receipt

Goods cannot be exchanged unless a sales _____ is shown.

I gave her an Indian _____ book for her birthday.

21. remember / remind

Would you _____ me to finish early tonight?

Did you _____ to switch off the kitchen light?

22. scenery / view

I adore the beautiful _____ in the Lake District.

You can get a good _____ of the sea from the church tower.

23. sensible / sensitive

She's very _____ and is easily upset.

Staying indoors was a _____ thing to do in this terrible weather.