

NYS & CSEA Partnership

Often Confused Words

Word

Definition

accept	receive willingly, agree
except	to exclude, leave out
adapt	to adjust
adept	skilled
adopt	to take for one's own
adverse	opposing
averse	reluctant
advice (noun)	recommendation
advise (verb)	to counsel
affect (verb)	to influence
effect (noun)	result, outcome
effect (verb)	to accomplish or make happen
aid	to help
aide	assistant
already	previously
all ready	all in readiness
altogether	entirely
all together	in unison, as one
between	limited to two
among	three or more
capital	chief, important
Capitol	official government building
coarse	rough, unrefined
course	passage, plan, subject of study
device (noun)	an instrument, mechanism
devise (verb)	to invent, create
disburse	to pay out
disperse	to scatter, separate
disinterested	impartial
uninterested	not interested
farther	refers to distance
further	additional
fewer	not as many (countable)
less	not as much (non-countable)

Often Confused Words

Word

formerly
formally

imply
infer

ingenious
ingenuous

insight
incite

insure
ensure

intelligent
intelligible

its
it's

lose
loose

moral
morale

perpetrate
perpetuate

personal
personnel

principal
principle

stationary
stationery

statue
statute
stature

taught
taut

than
then

their
there
they're

to
too
two

Definition

previously
in a serious or dignified manner

to suggest indirectly
to draw a conclusion indirectly

very clever
candid

understanding
to arouse to action

to guarantee (financial)
to guarantee or make certain

possessed of intelligence
understandable

possessive form of "it"
contraction for "it is" or "it has"

to misplace
not fixed tight

referring to ethical conduct
state of mind, feeling

to do
to make lasting

individual, private
staff, employees

chief, main
fundamental truth, law

permanent
writing paper

a carved likeness
a law
distinguished regard

instructed
tight, tense

used in comparisons
refers to time

possessive pronoun
location, place, indication
contraction for "they are"

preposition
also, much
number