



Choosing your words

accept: (verb) to approve, receive (as in being given something), or believe. *The first team accepted they had been wrong to arrive late for training.*

except: (verb) to exclude, keep out. *When the teams were selected for the gala, everyone got a place except those who had arrived late for training.*

affect: (verb) **to have an influence on someone or something, or to cause them to change:** *The rain will affect the road surface.*

effect: (almost always a noun) means the result of an influence: *The effect of the rainfall on the roads was terrifying..*

effect: (as a verb) means to cause or achieve something. *She will effect changes in the regulations for safe road-usage.*

allude: (verb) to refer to something indirectly. *The Home Secretary alluded to the problems of his predecessors when he wrote the Home Office report.*

(Note: To refer to something means to mention it directly.)

elude: (verb) to escape, avoid detection or memory. *She remained in hiding for two years in order to elude the detection. She tried to remember the events surrounding her arrest, but they eluded her.*

among / amongst: (preposition) sharing, being within a group, particularly where there is no explicit relationship. *The proceedings of the stock sale were divided among the various board members.*

between: (preposition, adverb) refers to position or action of two persons or objects, and is also used if there is a "definite relation" between persons or objects. *The sculpture weighed between 300 and 400 pounds, depending on whether you separated the base from the body of the stone figure. It is impossible to see how the sculpture could be installed and negotiations have broken down between the sculptor, the board members and the council authorities.*



amount: (noun) used in relation to mass nouns that are uncountable in terms of measuring. *She undertook a significant amount of work in preparation for the assignment.*

number: (noun) used for nouns that can be counted. *The number of patients interviewed for the assignment meant that she had excellent data to support her analysis.*

because: (conjunction) identifies the reason or cause of something that happened. *The examination was cancelled because the exam papers had not arrived.*

since: denotes a period of time. *The exam hall has been closed since the collapse of the roof.*

because of: (preposition) identifies the result – cause and effect - of something happening. *The examination was rescheduled because of problems with locating suitable invigilators.*

due to: (only use this adjectivally with a linking verb) *The brightness of the stage was due to a new lighting rig.*

compared to: to liken one thing to another. *She compared his voice to the sound of chalk scratching a blackboard.*

compared with: to explore similarities and differences. *The experiments compared the effects of physiotherapy with other types of non-invasive treatments such as massage.*

complement: (noun or verb) the addition of something necessary to make another thing complete. *The ginger complemented the coriander and herbs in the sauce.*

compliment: (noun or verb) indicates praise or admiration. *He made a point of always complimenting staff when they did a good job.*

fewer: (comparative of 'few') meaning, a smaller number of X. *There were fewer cars on the streets than there had been in the summer.*

less: (comparative of little) refers to smaller amounts or quantities of something. *People said there was less traffic now that the diversion was in place.*



if: (conjunction) meaning something can or will happen only on the condition or in the event that something else happens. *We offered participants incentives if they were able to attract additional players.*

whether: (conjunction introducing an indirect question or introducing possible alternatives) *It was difficult to tell whether the treatment had an impact as there was no control group for the experiment.*

illusion: (noun) a false, unreal or misleading impression. *The anamorphic painting created the illusion of looking at a three dimensional object.*

allusion: (noun) an indirect reference. *The film 'Star Wars' makes continuous allusions to Greek mythology in its narrative.*

imply: (verb) to indirectly suggest something. *Her statements implied that she now felt the report was completed.*

infer: (verb) to draw an opinion based on evidence and information. *It was inferred from her speech that she would be running for the role of president that autumn.*

like: a preposition used to compare nouns or pronouns, usually used in similes. *Patrische writes like a modern-day Proust.*

as if / as though: a conjunction used to introduce clauses (the clause is underlined), describing things as they appear to be. *It appeared initially as if / as though the new technique was inappropriate, but by allowing an extra five minutes of cooling the benefits of the technique were clearly demonstrated.*