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Errors Spell Checkers Do Not Correct and Style Sheet: 5 Years Later

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Abstract

This updated listing of words that are often confused by spell checkers is the most downloaded article among my works and those at my university. After 5 years, it has been frequently revised and added to with more than a thousand new words.

Spell checkers in writing programs and communication devices may change a written word to an unintended one and may provide auto completion as well. The writer or reader may note that a piece of work may be free from red (misspelling) or green (grammar/syntax error) underlining, but the wording may not be as intended. Likewise, the reverse may be true with the program flagging correctly written text. While dictionaries and lists of spelling demons, homonyms, and homophones exist, the following are a culling of words that spell checkers and auto completion programs may confuse. Each word is associated with a relevant related word to resolve ambiguity with eye toward both noun and verb usage, and unlike a dictionary is better regarded as a thesaurus. While yielding to the more common word, the pairings are usually alphabetically ordered by the word's sound then by nouns then verbs. Because some spell checkers allow multiple generally acceptable spellings, the preferred spelling is presented herein. While casual misuse is understandable, many of the listings herein have been observed as errors in student work, colleague communications, and in the media. Generally not included are vulgar words as well as abbreviations including those used in chemistry, physics, commerce, and foreign exchange. American spellings are used herein which include endings of: *-am*, *-ense*, *-ize*, *-or*, and *-ter* instead of British endings of: *-amme*, *-ence*, *-ise*, *-our*, and *-tre*. Generally, a single consonant after a vowel or a terminal silent *e* makes the single vowel prior to the consonant long in pronunciation, and it is “*i* before *e* except after *c* or before *g*.” Some proper and trade names and **foreign** words are shown if they are the same.

Generally adjectives ending in *-ic* are denotative (what it is), internally defined, or characteristic while words ending in *-ical* are connotative (what it is about), externally defined, or exceptional; nouns may end with *-ic* or *-ics*, adverbs with *-icly* or *-ically*. Consider: *cleric -al*, *comic -al*, *cubic -al*, *economic -al*, *electric -al*, *ethic -al*, *heretic -al*, *historic -al*, *magic -al*, *mathematic -al*, *mystic -al*, *philosophic -al*, *psychoanalytic -al*, *rhetoric -al*, *statistic -al*, *theatric -al*, *topic -al*, *tropic -al*, etc., where “*the historical theatric presentation*” is a drama set in the past, but “*the historic theatrical presentation*” is a noteworthy florid oration. On the other hand, there are those that do not easily receive such treatment, e.g. *acrobatic*, *artistic*, *athletic*, *caustic*, *democratic*, *dramatic*, *eclectic*, *ethnic*, *fantastic*, *ironic*, *magnetic*, *majestic*, *monotonic*, *pubic*, *political* (*politic* is either *proper* or a verb), *realistic*, *sardonic*, *sarcastic*, *sonic*, and *toxic*; there are also those which can be used as nouns: *academic*, *cleric*, *comic*, *epidemic*, *esthetic*, *heretic*, *medic*, *mystic*, *psychic*, *psychotic*, *public*, *radical*, *relic*, *statistic*, and *topic*.

Commonly mispronounced words include: *accreditation* ac-cre-di-ta-tion, *amateur* a-ma-teur, *banal* ba-nal, *denunciation* de-nun-ci-a-tion, *epitome* e-pi-to-me, *etcetera* et-ce-ter-a, *harass* har-ass, *homogeneous* ho-mo-gene-ous, *hyperbole* hy-per-bo-le, *integral* in-te-gral, *intelligentsia* in-tel-li-Gen-tsi-a, *interest* in-te-rest, *kiln* kil(n), *lackadaisical* lac-ka-dai-si-cal, *machinations* ma-Ki-na-tions, *medieval* me-di-e-val, *mischievous* mis-chie-vous, *naïveté* na-ïv(e)-té, *nuclear* nuc-le-ar, *pronunciation* pro-nun-ci-a-tion, *regardless* re-gard-less, *renaissance* re-nais-sance, *unionized* un-i-o-nized [chemistry] or u-nion-ized [work], and *zoology* zo-o-lo-gy. There is a difference between *as* and *like*. Use *as* when followed by action (another verb or function); use *like -s* as a verb denoting a preference or otherwise for comparisons. The comparative usage is never followed by another verb (save gerund nouns—“*There are things that always makes me happy, like walking the dog*” versus “...*as when I walk the dog*.”).

Thereafter follows a style sheet noting that different versions exist among various fields and publications. It is offered here in recognition that writing programs often do little to correct notational styles.

a – [ind. article]/the [Port.]/to [Fr./Sp.],	an – [ind. article]→[vowel]
abject – severe	object – contrary/thing
abode – residence	bode – expect
aboriginal – native	original – unique
abroad – foreign	a broad – wide, a woman
abrogation – annulment	approbation – approval
absent – not here	absinthe – liquor
absentia – not present	abstention – avoid
absolve – blameless	absolute – completely
abstract/-ion – not tangible	obstruct/-ion – block
accept – approve	except – exclude, excerpt – portion
accent – foreign dialect/add	ascent – rise, assent – agreement
access – entrance	excess – extra
accrue/-d – gain	ecru – yellow brown, a crew – team, crude –raw
accuse – blame	excuse – absolve
acquire – obtain	choir – chorus, quire – paper
action – movement	auction – bid sale
acts – performs	ax(e)/-es – lumber tool/-s
acute – sharp	cute – adorable
ad/-s – marketing,	add/-s – increase, aids – helps/disease, adz – ax
addict – dependent	attic – roof
addiction – dependence	addition – increase
admiral – navy officer	admirable - worthy
adverse – unfavorable	averse – opposed
advice – suggestion [noun]	advise – suggest [verb]
affect – change[verb/noun psychology]	effect – outcome[noun]/+cause [verb]
affinity – association	infinity – all, infinitely – unbounded
afraid – scared	frayed – frazzled
aid/-e – help/-er	-ade – juice drink suffix
ail – ill	ale – drink
ain't – is not [incorrect]	isn't – is not [correct]
air/-ed – gas/exposed,	arid – dry, err/-ed – mistake/-n, +heir – inheritance, ear – listen, +
+	er – he [German]
airy – light	aerial – antenna, eerie – strange, Erie - lake
aisle – passage	I'll – I will, ill – sick
align – straighten	a line – straight segment
all – entire,	awl – tool, owl – bird, y'all – you all, al – to the [Spanish]
alliterative/-on – same first sound	iterative/-on – step by step
allot – allocate	a lot – plenty [not <i>alot</i>]
allude – refer	elude – avoid
allusion – reference	illusion – unreal
ally – friend	alley – small street, alloy – metals
allowed – permitted	aloud – vocalize
aloft – airborne	aloof – avoid, loft – warehouse apartment
already – recently	all right – perfect [not <i>alright</i>]
altar – pedestal	alter – change
alumnus – male graduate,	alumna – female graduate, alumni –graduates
amateur – devotee	armature – spindle
amaze – astound	amass – acquire, maze – labyrinth, maize – corn
ameliorate – improve,	amulet – charm [noun], emulate – surpass/copy
anachronism – outdated	aphorism – slogan

anal – rectum,
 analog – modulation
 anathema – hated object
 anatomic – body
 anchor – steadied
 and – plus
 anecdote – story
 anima – soul
 annoys – bothers
 anonymous – unknown
 anus – rectum
 ant – insect
 antic/-s – behavior
 apiary – beehive
 applicable – relevant
 appreciate – positive
 apogee – farthest
 approbation – approval
 arcane – complex
 are – be
 area – space
 arise/arose – stand/stood [reflexive]
 art – esthetic
 artisan – stylish
 artistic – stylish design
 as – per/the [plural Port.],
 ascends – climbs [verb]
 ascetic – poor
 ask – question
 aspire – hope
 assault – attack
 ascent – rise
 assay – analyze
 assure – remove doubt,
 astringent – chemical
 assuage – relieve
 austere – sparse
 ate – eat [past]
 attach/-ed – fasten/-ed
 attain – achieve
 attend/-ed – be present
 auger – foretell
 aural – hearing
 aviator – air pilot
 avocation – hobby
 awful – astound
 awed – wowed
 awry – unplanned
 axes – lumber tools
 aye – affirmative
 babble – noise,
 back – rear
 bad – not good,

annals – history, anneal – temper, analysis – understanding
 analogue – analogy
 asthma – difficult breathing
 atomic – atom
 anger – infuriate
 ant – insect, aunt – parent's sister
 antidote – poison remedy
 enema – colon cleansing, enemy – opponent
 noise – sound
 unanimous – all
 annus – year (Latin), onus – blame
 aunt – parent's sister
 antique/-s – old
 aviary – bird cage
 appliqué – covering
 deprecate – insult, depreciate – decrease
 apology – sorry
 probation – trial, appropriation – funding
 archaic – old
R
 aria – music, arrears – past due, array – matrix
 arrive/-s – become/-s
 Art/hur – male name
 artesian – pressured well
 autistic – impairment
 ass/-es – donkey/butt/-s, asset/-s – value, assess – measure
 ascents – climbs [noun]
 esthetic – art
 ax(e) – tool
 expire – end
 salt – seasoning
 assent – agreement, accent – dialect/add
 essay – writing, say – speak
 ensure – to be sure, insure – buy insurance
 stringent – strict
 usage – utilization
 Austria/Australia – nation [Europe/Pacific]
 eight – 8
 attaché – diplomat
 obtain – get
 intend/-ed – desire/-ed
 augur – drill, A-/august – month/name/highly
 oral – verbal
 avatar – symbol
 vocation – career
 oval – round, offal – rubbish
 odd – not even
 rye – grain, wry – thin/joke
 axis – hub
 I – me/1, eye – vision
 bobble – trinket, bubble – gas, Babel – tower, Bible – book
 bake – cook
 bid – offer, bade – desire, bud/-dy – young growth/friend

bag – sack	beg – plead, big – large, bog – swamp, bug – insect
bagel – bread	beagle – dog, bugle – trumpet
bail – payment/scoop	bale – package, bill – due
bait – lure,	bat – animal/hit, bet – wager, bit/-e – portion/[past]/-chew
ball/-ed – sphere/dance/gathered	bawl/-ed – cry/-ied, bald – hairless
band – group/fastener	banned – prohibited
banister – railing	barrister – lawyer
bar – rail	bare – naked, bear – animal/carry, beer – drink
bard – writer	bared – revealed, barred – prohibited, bird – animal
barely – scarcely	barley – grain
barrel – container/speed	beryl – mineral, burl – wood
barren – fallow	baron - royalty
barrier – impediment,	derriere – buttocks, farrier – blacksmith, furrier – fur maker, +
+	te-/harrier – dog, merrier – happier
bask – sun bathe	Basque – European region
(a)bate – lessen	bait – prey attraction
batch – portion	bitch – female, botch – error, butch – male
bath/-e – immerse	booth – enclosure
bazaar – sales	bizarre – strange
be – to exist	bee – insect/B, Bea/-trice – female name
bean – seed	bin – box, been – be [past], Ben/-jamin – male name
beast – wild animal, breast – chest,	best – win/better [superlative]
beat – drum/conquer	beet – vegetable, bet – wager
beatify – sanctify	beautify – pretty
beau – beauty	bow – arrow launcher, boo/-boo – scare/error
beauty – pretty thing	booty – treasure/butt
beer – beverage	bier – corpse carrier
believe – presume	Bolivia – county
berth – place	birth – born
biretta – cleric hat	Berretta – gun
bladder – body organ	blather – talk, blotter – dryer
blade – grass/knife	belayed – cancelled, bayed – howled
blare – trumpet	blur/-ry – smudge, blear/-y – unfocused
blew – blow [past]	blu/blue – [French/Italian]/color
blotch – disfigurement	botch – fail, butch – male
boar/-s/-d – pig/-s/panel, bore/-s/-d – drill/-s/-ed/fatigue/-s/-d, bourse – market, burr/-s – rough edge/-s	
boarder – renter	border – boundary
boat – ship,	bought – purchased, boot – shoe/load, ‘-/bout – about/contest
B-/bob – male name/floating	bib – baby napkin, imbibe – drink
body – main portion	bawdy – risqué
bon mot – good word	bone moat – skeleton ditch, bonbon – candy
booger – discharge	burger – food/citizen
boos – jeers	booze – liquor
booths – stands [noun]	booze – liquor
born – birth	borne – bear [past], bourn – brook
borrow – debt	burrow – hole, (wheel-)barrow – carrier, borough – district, +
+	burro – donkey, bureau – office
bough – branch	bow – bend
bowl – container	bowel – entrails
boy – male child	buoy – floater
brake – stop	break – pause/fail
bread – food	breed/bred – mate/-ed
breach/-s – breakthrough	breech/-s pants

brew/-s/-ed – prepare/-s drinks/[past]	bruise – wound, brood – offspring/ponder
broach – commence discussion	brooch – ornament jewelry
brows – view cover	browse – peruse
buds – young plants	buzz – bee sound/cut
bullion – gold	bouillon – soup broth
bumbershoot – umbrella [erroneously British]	broly – umbrella [Brit]
but – however	butt – end, butte – promontory, bud – young plant
bury – deeply cover	Barry – male name
buy – purchase	by – method, bye – so long, bi – both
caber – pole [Scottish]	caper – adventure, kipper – herring
cable – flexible connection,	cabal – secret group, Kabul – city, cobble – hinder
cache/-d – hide/hidden,	cachet – distinction, cash/-ed – money/redeem
cactus – plant [singular]	cacti – plants [plural]
cadence – tempo	credence – believable
cadenza – musical piece	credenza – cupboard
café – restaurant	coffee – drink
cake – dessert	cock – bird/set, kick – foot propel, kook – strange
calendar – days list	colander – food sieve, coriander – spice
calf – cow	cough – sputter, cuff – sleeve end
call – speak out	kale – plant, cool – slightly cold, cull – separate
calorie – heat,	cavalier – callous, cavalry – mounted army, Calvary – church
canon – artillery	canyon/cañon – ravine/[Spanish]
canapé – appetizer	canopy – deck cover
cant – slope/phrase	can't – cannot
canter – stroll	cantor – singer, candor – truth
cap – cover	cape – jetty/coat
capable – able	culpable – blame
capital – head city/funds	capitol – government building
car – vehicle	care – concern
carat – gem weight	carrot – vegetable, carob – seed
carnal – sexual	carnival – public celebration
carry - transport	caries – tooth decay
carrier – vehicle	currier – messenger
cart – carry	court – square/law/pursue, curt – short
carton – package	cartoon – panel
case – container/secretly examine,	cash/-ed – money/redeemed, cachet – distinguished, cached – hidden
cashmere – wool	Kashmir – region
cast – mold	caste – order
cat – animal	caught – catch [past], cot – bed, coat – cover, +
+	cut – separate, kit – pack [noun]
catch – seize	kitsch – banal art
cause/-d – implement/-ed	cost – value, 'cause – because
cease/-d – stop/-ped	size/-d – measure/-d, seize/-d – grab/-bed, cyst – bump, seas – oceans, +
+	sees – see [3 rd per.]
cede – give up	seed/-y – germ/decrepit
ceiling – room top	sealing – closure
celebrate/-ory – party	celibate/-ory – unmarried
cell/-ar – enclosure	sell/-er – vend/-er, seal – animal/to close
cement – glue	cemetery – graveyard, seminary – retreat
center – middle	cinder – ash, sinter – meld, sinister – evil
centrifugal –outward force,	centripetal –inward force, centipede –100 feet
cents – pennies/hundredths,	sense – meaning, since – from [time]
cereal – grain	serial – sequenced

chalk – crayon	check – note, Czech, cheek – face
choke – squeeze	C-/chuck – male name/stop
chafe – scrape	chaff – discards
chair – seat	char – burn
chard – plant	charred – burnt
chased – pursued	chaste – virgin, chasten – chastise
chat – talk	chit – receipt, Chad – name/nation
chatter – talk	shatter – break
cheap – inexpensive	cheep – bird sound
chef – cook	chief – leader
chess – game	cheese – dairy, chest – box/breast
chew/-s – eat/-s,	choose/chose – choice [infinitive]/[past]
chic – trendy	chick – bird, sheik/-h – Bedouin
chill – cool	chili – pepper/food, Chile – nation
chin – jaw,	shin – leg, shim – adjust, C-/china – nation/dishware
choir – chorus	quire – paper, acquire – obtain
chow – meal	<i>ciao</i> – hello/good bye [Italian]
christen – launch	chrysalis – insect, crystal – glass, Christian – religion, chrysanthemum – flower
chute – fall	shoot – fire gun
cite – quote	site – location, sight – see, scythe – cutter
clad – covered,	clawed – scratched, clod – dirt/dullard, cloud – obscure
clan – family	clean – unblemished, clear – visible
claque – hired audience	click – press, clique – group
clause – subsection	claws – scratch
climb – mount [verb]	clime – climate
cloudy – overcast	clowder – cats, chowder – soup
close – shutter/near	cloth/-e/-es – covering/cover/wardrobe
closer – ender	closure – ending, cloture – vote
cloth – material	clothe – human covering
coach – bus/teach/-er	couch – sofa/place
coarse – unrefined	course – path
coaster – glider	costar – fellow actor
coat/-ing – cover/-ing	code/-ing – encrypt/-ion
cock – bird/penis,	C-/coke – Coca Cola/furnace byproduct/cocaine, coax – motivate
coca – cocaine	cocoa – chocolate, <i>caca</i> – feces [Spanish]
coffer – box	coiffure – hair, cougher – dislodge [person]
collage – paste	college – school
Colombia – nation [Spanish]	Columbia – of Columbus [English]
committee – group	comity – courtesy, comedy – funny
common – likewise	commune – group/visit
communicative – understandable	cumulative – all prior
complement/-ary – make whole	compliment/-ary – free gift
complex – compound/complicated	complexion – appearance
computer – computation device	commuter – short distance traveler
C-/cologne – city/perfume	colon – rectum, column – pillar
colonel – military rank	kernel – seed
compost – recycle organics	compote - jelly
concert – together	disconcerting – bothersome
consecrate – bless	incarcerate – imprison
contiguous – connected	continuous – uninterrupted
contraction – shrink	contraption – silly device
conga – music	Congo – nation
coo – bird sound,	coup – hit/change (Fr.), cuckoo-cuckoo – clock/peek

cookie – dessert	kooky – different
cooperation – together	corporation – form of business
cop – police/plea	cope – deal with, cup – drink
coral – sea growth	choral/-e – singers, corral – fenced
cord – rope/wood	chord – segment/musical notes
core – center	corps/-e – group/cadaver
corner – edge point	coroner – morgue person
cough – dislodge	cuff – clothing edge
council – group/advice [noun]	counsel – advise [verb]
cranial – brain	criminal – illegal
crass – uncouth	crest – plant, crisscross – zigzag, cross – counter
creek – brook	crick – neck spasm
crewed – staffed	crude – raw
crews – teams	cruise – travel
criterion – standard [singular]	criteria – standards [plural]
critic – analyzer person	critique – analysis/analyze
crochet – knit,	crocket – ornament, croquet – game, croquette – food
crock – nonsense/pot	crook – criminal
crop – plants/cut	croup – disease
crotch – pelvic	crutch – aid, crux – center
cue – stick/prompt	queue – waiting line, Q
cur/-s – scoundrel/-s,	cure/-s – fix/-es, curse/-r – swear/-er, cursor – pointer
daft – silly	deft – skillful, deaf – cannot hear
daily – each day	dally – idle, delay – postpone
dairy – milk	diary – journal, daisy – flower
dale – glen	doled/-lled – gave/prettied, dolt – dullard
dam/-n – reservoir/curse	dame – lady
dare – challenge,	dire – bad, door – closure, dour – stubborn/morose
data – information [plural],	date – time, datum – information [singular]
D-/dawn – female name/shed light,	D-/don – male name/place
days – time periods	daze – dizzy, <i>das</i> – the [German]/of the [Port.]
deal – distribute/bargain	dell – valley/of the [It.], <i>del</i> – of the [Sp.]
dear – beloved	deer – animal/-s, <i>der</i> – the/of [German]
death – life cessation	dearth – shortage
decent – proper	descend/-t – downward
deck – terrace	D-/dick – name/penis, dyke – dam
décor – design	decorum – behavior, decoration – adornment
defection – quit	defecation – excretion
defer – yield	differ – disagree
defiant/-ly – contrary	definite/-ly – certain/-ly
deforest – cut trees	defrost – melt
delude – deceive	dilute – mix thinner
den – residence/the pl.[Ger],	deign – condescend, dine – eat, din/DIN – noise/photography, dine – eat,
+	Dan/-e – name/country
dense – thick	dent/-s – indentation/-s
dependence – reliance	dependents – recipients
depose – testify	dispose – process
depraved – degenerate	deprived – denied
deprecate – insult	depreciate – decrease
description – story	discretion – judgment
desert – dry place/depart	dessert – sweet meal
desperate – needy	disparate – different
deter – repel	detour – go around

device – apparatus	devise – determine
dial – display	dill – plant
did – do [past]	didn't – did not, dent – bump
die/-s – cease/-s life/the[German], + Dip – submerge	dye/-s –tint/-s, die/dice – game, + D – 500, <i>di</i> – of [Italian], <i>de</i> – of [Fr./Sp.]/the [Dutch]
dim – less light	dope – dumb/glue, dupe – deceive
dine/-r – eat/restaurant	dime – 10 cents
ding – bell sound/dent/diminish	dinner – meal
dire – extreme	dinghy – small boat, dingy – dirty
discreet – trusty	voir dire – testimony [legal French]
discussed – conversation	discrete – incremental
do – perform/of the[Port.],	disgust – dislike
doe – deer	due – deadline/per, dew – moist, <i>du</i> – of the [French]/you [German]
does – deer [plural]/performs, dose – portion, doze – sleep, dos – do [plural]/2 [Spanish]/of the [Port.]	dough – bread/money
doesn't – does not	doll/-y – toy model, doily – decorative cover
dole – donation	don't – do not, don/-ned – wear/wore, dun – penalty
done – complete,	dumb – not intelligent
doom – foreboding	dour – stern
door – portal	dote – serve
dot – point	dragoon – cavalry
dragon – mythical creature	draught – beer, drought – dry, drift – aimless
draft – design/tug/induct	traumatic – wounded
dramatic – theatrical	drip – flow, drop – fall, droop – sag
drape – cover	drudge – tiresome, dredge – scoop
dread – anxiety	duct – piping
ducked – lowered	dude – guy
dud – failure	dual – double, dull – not bright
duel – gun fight	Dungeness – English locale/crab
dungeonous – medieval	urn – receptacle
earn – gain	Earth – planet
earth – soil	<i>et/&</i> – and [Latin/French]/a [Danish[/ampersand
eat – consume	embolism – blockage
ebullient – bubbly	epileptic – seizures, electric – energy, lactic – milk
eclectic – diverse,	static – noise/immobile
ecstatic – joyful	Eddie – short for Edward
eddy – current flow	effete – fatigued
effeminate – womanly	i.e. – that is
e.g. – example	L – 50, eel – fish, <i>elle</i> – she/it [Fr.]
el – elevated/the [Spanish]	electrical – voltage powered
electoral – voting	eloquent – well spoken
elegant – stylish	illicit – illegal
elicit – obtain	illuminate – shine
eliminate – exclude	ellipsis - ...
ellipse – oval	M – 1000, <i>im</i> – in the [German]
em – M/wide font	immigrate – enter
emigrate – exit	immolate – sacrifice, amulet – charm [noun]
emollient – sooth	umpire – judge
empire – kingdom	inscription – writing
encryption – encode	Indian – India/native
engine – motor	enemy – hostile
enema – colon cleansing	magnetic – attractive
enigmatic – unknowable	

ensue – follow	issue – distribution
entomology – insect study	etymology – word origin
eon – billion years	ion – molecule
epic – historic	epoch/-s – era/-s, epoxy – glue
epitaph – tombstone	epithet – curse
equate – equal	equilibrate – balance, equivocate – avoid answer
era – time	err/-or – mistake, heir – inheritance
errand – small journey	errant – error
escalate – increase	emasculate – castrate
eschew – avoid	issue – distribution
espouse – promote	expose – uncover, spouse – mate
estrangle – separate	strange – different, strain – sift/pull
etch/-ing – draw/-ing	itch/-ing – need to scratch
ether/-eal – chemical/insubstantial	either – one of
ethic/-al – moral	ethnic – racial
evacuate – empty	excavate – dig
evade/evasive – hides	invade/invasive – intrudes
even – equal	event – celebration, eventual – end
ex – former	X – 10
exacerbate – worsen	exasperate – vex, extricate – withdraw
exact – precise/perform	extract – remove
exalt/-ation – raise esteem	exult/-ation – joy
example – specimen	exemplar – prototype
exercise – implement	exorcise – drive out
exit – out	exist – to be
expansive – broad	expensive – costly
expect – anticipate	expert – knowledgeable
extant – existing	sextant – measuring device
extrapolate – extend	interpolate – estimate
extrude – pushed out	exude – give off
ewe – sheep	you – thou, U, U – you [Dutch]
eye/-d – vision/viewed	aye – affirmative, id – psychology, I'd – me/I would, +
+	ID – identification, i – in [Swed.]/and [Sp.]
eyelet – small hole	islet – small island
face – front	faze – bother, phase – cycle, fuss – bother
facet – angle	faucet – water spout
fact/-s – datum/data	fax – facsimile, vex – bother
faction – sub group	fiction – not true
fad – recent trend	fade – diminish, F-/fed – Federal/ate
fail – not succeed	fall – autumn/descend, fell – topple, fill – add, full – complete
fairy – phantom	ferry – boat
fake – deceive	façade – front/cover
fallow – barren	fellow – comrade, follow – after
fanatic – devoted	frantic – urgent
far – not near	fair – bazaar/just/pale, fare – price, fear – afraid, fir – tree, fire – flame
farce – comedy	force – pressure
farther – distance	further – continue
fat – large	fate – destiny, fit – size/ready, fought – fight [past]
fatal/-e – deadly, [fem. French]	fetal – unborn child
feat – performance	feet – foot [plural], fete – feast
feel (not) well – touches (not) well	feel good/bad – health/sensation
felled – fallen	felt – hat material/feel [past]
feud – persistent disagreement,	feudal – fiefdom, futile – cannot win

F-/fez – city/hat	fizz – bubbly, fuzz – police/wooly
fiancé –to be wed,	faience –ceramic [French], finance –manage cash
fig – fruit	fog – low cloud
filet – net/[French],	fill – add, fillet – boneless, filly – horse, flay – skin
filing – application/scraping,	filling – insertion, fling – chance/hurl
final – end	finale – terminal celebration
find – locate	feigned – faked, fined – cash punishment
finish – end/shine	Finnish – Finland
fish – water animal	phish – fake email
fisher – fish catcher	fissure – opening, phisher – fake emailer
fiscal – calendar	physical – movement
flaccid – deflated	flax – plant
flail – flop	flay – to skin
flair – style	flare – torch/extension
flap – cover/disagreement	flip – turn, flop – failure/slam
flat – apartment/smooth,	flit –flew, float –rise/launch, flout –disregard
flatter – smoother/charm[verb]	flutter – flit
flawed – imperfect	flowed – circulate, flood – inundation
flimflam – mistruth,	flimsy – weak, phlegm–sputum, Fleming–Flemish
flea/-s – insect/-s	flee/-s – depart/-s, fleece – wool/rob
flecks – spots	flex – bend
flier – aviator,	filer –file [person], flyer [Brit.] –leaflet/speculation [Am.]
floe – floating ice	flow – proceed, movement, Flo – Florence
flour – food ingredient	flower – plant bloom
flu – influenza	flue – furnace vent, flew – fly [past]
foe – enemy	faux – false
fold – crease	foaled – horse birth
fond – residue/prefer,	found – discovered, fount/-ain – water, font - type
fool – dumb	fuel – energy, foal – horse
founder – originator/sink	flounder – fish/clumsy flopping
for – intended	fore – before, four – 4, fur - hair
forced – overpowered	forest – trees, frost – ice
F-/ford – automobile/wade	fjord – water inlet, afford – budget
foreword – introduction	forward – advance
forth – proceeding	fourth – 4 th
form – style	forum – theater, from – origin
formally – officially	formerly – previously
fort – fortification	forte – strength, forté – loud
found – discovered	fun/-d – pleasure/monies
foul – error	fowl – bird, foal – horse
fractal – sub pattern	fractional – portion
fraction – portion	friction – abrasive
frank/-urter – honest/hot dog	Frank/-lin – male name/\$100
freight – shipment	fret – musical scale/worry
friar – priest	fryer – cook
fraud – deceit	fraught – filled
freeze – solidify	frieze – decorative façade
frill – adornment,	shrill – high pitched, trill – sound flourish, thrill – excitement
fulsome – deceptive	Folsom – city
fungus – mushroom	fungi – mushrooms [plural]
gaff – error	golf – game, guff – backtalk, gulf – void
gait – slow gallop	gate – low door, get – obtain
gal – woman	gale – wind, gall – nerve, gill – breathe, goal – purpose, +

+	gaol – jail [British], Gail – female name
galaxy – astronomy	Galaxie – car brand
gambit – bet	gamut – range
gamble – chance	gambol – skip
gander – bird	gender – sex
gash – cut	gauche – left/passé, gosh – wow, gush – pour
gauge – measure	gouge – deep scrape
gaze – stare	gay/-s – festive/homosexual
gear – cog	gore – morbid, gyre – turn
gee – exclamation	G
gel – gelatin/congeal	jelly – jam/compote
gem – stone	gym/-nasium – building, Jim – male name
gene/-s – heredity	jeans – denim pants, Gene/Jean – male/female name
genius – very smart	genus – classification
gentle – kindly	gentile – non believer
germane – relevant	German – nationality
gesture – indication	jester – comic
get/got – obtain/-ed,	goat – animal, gout – disease, gut – bowel, goad – urge, good – positive
gilt – golden	guilt – blame
gist – essence	jest – joke, just – proper
glamour – high style	glimmer – slight light
gloom – dark	glum – sad
gnat – insect,	natty – nicely, net – catch, newt – animal, nit – small egg
goes – go [3 rd person]	goose – animal
golf – sport	gulf – void/inlet
golfer – sport player	gopher – animal, gofer – assistant [go for]
googol - 10 ¹⁰⁰ ,	goggle/-s – eye protection, Google –internet search, gaggle – geese
goon – gangster	gun – pistol, gone – went
gored – stabbed	gourd – vegetable
gorilla – ape	guerrilla – combatant
grace – gentle/kindness	grease – oily, Greece – nation
graffito – wall writing [singular]	graffiti – wall writings [plural]
grain – seed, wood	grin – smile, groan – sigh
grant – permit	Grant – name/\$50
grapple – grasp	<i>graupel</i> – snow pellets [German]
grate – grill/scrape	great – large, greet – welcome
gravel – loose stones	grove – trees, grovel – beg
grisly – gray	gristly – ligaments, greasy – fatty
groan – outcry	grown – become/full sized
grope/-ing – grab	group/-ing – arrangement
guides – instructional aid	guise – excuse, guys – group
habit – routine inclination	habitat – domicile
hack – amateur/cough, hick – bumpkin, hock – pawn, hawk – sell/bird, Huck-/huckleberry – name/fruit	
hackle – neck	heckle – jeer
hair – fur	hare – rabbit
hairy – furry	harried – rushed, Harry – male name
hail – salute/snow	hall – passage, haul – carry, hill – mountain
hang/-ed – suspend/-ed	hung – endowed
hangar – large shed	hanger – supporter
herald – sign	Harold – male name
hat – covering	hate – dislike, hit – strike, hot – warm, hut – shed, Haiti – nation, haute – high [Fr.]
hatch – opening	hitch – halt, hutch – bin
haughty – above	hotty – sexy [informal]

have – possess	halve – divide equally
hay – plant/there is [Spanish]	hey – salutation
head – top/toward	heed – follow
heal – recover	heel – rear of foot
heard – listened	herd – animal group
hearse – funeral carriage	hers – female possessive
heart – blood pump/center/♥	hearth – cooking fireplace
height – tall measure,	hide – skin/not seen, high – tall, <i>het</i> – the [Dutch]
hen – chicken	<i>hin</i> – there [German]
her – possessive [feminine],	hear – listen, here – close by, here’re – here are
hero – admired person	gyro – Greek food
heroin – drug	heroine – female hero
hew – chop	hue – color
higher – above	hire – employ
him – male [object]	hymn – song, hem – mend
hippopotamus – animal	hippopotamuses – animals [plural]
his – possessive [masculine]	hiss – snake sound
ho – greeting/whore/have [Italian]	hoe – tool
hole – opening	whole – complete
hoard – gathering,	horde – group, horrid – bad, whored – prostituted
hoarse – voiceless	horse – animal, whores – libertines
home – center/residence	hone – sharpen
horror – frightening	whore – libertine
humidity – moist air	humility – not arrogant
hungry – need food	Hungary – nation
hyper – more	hypo – less
idiom – language	idiot – stupid
idle – unengaged	idol – icon
ignominious – shameful	magnanimous – kindly
ill/-s – sick	I’ll – I will, <i>il/-s</i> – he/it/they [French]
imminent – soon	immanent – thoughts
imply – intend	infer – perceive
impotent – unable	important – relevant
impossible – not able	impassable – blocked
in – [prep.],	inn – tavern, en – N/narrow font/in [Sp.]/a [Dan./Swed.]
inalienable – permanent	unalienable – permanent [archaic]
incite – instigate	insight – understanding
inferior – lesser	interior – inside
infinitely – unbounded	infinity – forever, affinity – association
inscription – writing	encryption – encode
insolent – rude	insolvent – inert, insulate – protect from heat/cold
integration – meld	interrogation – question
interment – burial	internment – imprison
intrastate – inside state	interstate – between states
intervene – intrude	intravenous – inside vein
irascible – anger prone	irrational – illogical
ire – anger,	<i>ir</i> – to go [Spanish], oar – boat tool, or/-e – instead/mineral
iron – metal/press	irony/-ic – counter significance
its – possessive	it’s – it is
J-/jack – male name/lift	jax – game, Jackson - \$20
jail/-ed –	gaol [Brit.]/imprison/-ed, jilt – no agreement
jar – container, ajar – open	jeer – heckle, gyre – rotate
jasmine – flower	jazzmen – musicians

jeune – young	June – month/name
jet – speed	jot – write, jut/jetty – extension, jute – plant
jewed – strict negotiation (racist)	Jude – Biblical
jewel – gem	joule – energy
jocular – humorous	jugular – throat, juggler – toss performer
jute – plant	Jude – name
kill/-ed – murder/-ed	kale – plant, kiln – oven, kilt – male skirt
kitsch – not stylish	quiche – meal
knave – rascal	naïve – ignorant, knife – blade
knead – roll dough	knead – upper leg hit, need – necessity
knew – understood/acquainted,	gnu – animal, new – unknown, nu – N/v
knight – rank	night – darkness
know/-s – understand/acquaint/-ed	nose – smell no –negative/in the [Port.]/Japanese drama
lack/-s – miss/-es,	lake/-s – pond/-s, lax – loose, like/-s – prefer/-s
ladder – steps	later – in future, latter – further
laid – lay [past],	lain – placed, lane – path, lawn – grass
lair – den	liar – false, lawyer – barrister, layer – put, lure – bait, leer – look, lyre – harp
lamb – sheep	lame – less able, lam(baste) – flee
lap/-s – seating/sip/round	lapse – omission
largesse – charity	largest – biggest
lash – fasten	lass – girl, lush – verdant/drunken
late – tardy	let – permit, lit – land/light, lot – status/plenty
later – future	latter – further, ladder – steps
lath – plaster	lathe – cut
laude – award	loud – strong sound
laugh/-ed – joke/-ed	loft – attic/launch
launch – inaugurate	lunch – meal
law – rule,	lay – recline, lie – untruth/place, lye –chemical, lei –flowers+
+	la/LA/L.A. – music/the [Sp./Fr./It.]/Louisiana/Los Angeles
laze – relax,	lays – reclines, liaison – connect, lase – laser [verb], las [Sp.]
led – [verb past] lead	lead – metal
leader – prime	liter – liquid measure
leafs – flips through	leaves – leaf [plural]/departs
leak – drip	leek – plant
leave – depart	leaven – bread rise, lever – fulcrum
least – minimal	lest – unless, leased – rented
left – port [side]	leafed – flipped through, lift - raise
legislator – representative	legislature – parliament
lemma – choice	lemming – animal
lends – loans	lens – optic
less – decrease	lease – rent, Les/les – name/the [plural Fr.]
lesbian – female homosexual	thespian – actor
lessee – renter	lessor – owner, lesser – smaller
lessen – decrease,	lesson – instruction, lesion – wound, liaison - connection
letter – character/message	liter – volume, litter – offspring loiter – linger
lieu – place,	Lew/Lou – male name, loo – toilette [Brit], lu – read[Fr.]
ligament – connection	linament – wound treatment
lightening – less heavy	lightning – spark
limber – flexible	lumber – wood
liquor – drink spirits	liqueur – aperitif
lisp – speech impediment	list – compilation, Liszt – composer
literal – verbatim	littoral – coastal
lived – live [past]	livid – angry/colored

liver – body organ	livery – paint design
loaf – bread/loiter	loathe – hate, love – like a lot
loan – lend	lone – single
load – weight, fill	lode – vein
lock/-s – security device	loch – Scottish lake, lox - fish
lodge – place	loge – balcony
loon – bird	loom – weaver/hover, <i>lune</i> – moon [French]
loot – money, pilfer	lute – instrument, lewd – vulgar
lose – misplace	loose – not tight, louse – insect, Laos – nation, <i>los</i> – the [plural Spanish]
louver – window slat	lover – sexual friend, Louvre – Paris museum
lumbar – back	lumber – wood/plod
ma – mother	<i>ma</i> – but [Italian]
macro – large	micro – small
made –make [past],	mad –crazy, maid –female servant, mayday –help!
magma – lava	magna - great
magnanimous – kindly	magnificent – grand
magnate – major business person	magnet – attractor
mail – postal	male – masculine, mill – grind
maim – harm	Ma'am – madam, mayhem – riot
main – central,	man – male human, mane – horse hair, Maine [USA/Fr.]
major – important	force majeure – dominating [legal]
mall – courtyard,	maul – mistreat, moll – girl, mole – animal/blemish
mammary – female	memory – recall
manifest – list, produce	manifesto – philosophy
manner – method	manor – house
many – numerous	mini – small, midi – half/south [Fr.]
manacle – handcuff	maniacal – crazy
mar – sea [Spanish]/deface	mere – only, mire – stuck
marble – stone/varied coloration	marvel – amaze
M-/march – month/parade	marsh – swamp
marking – print	marketing – promotion
marquee – theater display	marquis – nobleman
mars – make imperfect	Mars – planet
marry – wed	merry – happy, Mary – girl's name
martyr – victim	mortar – cement, motor – engine
mash – crush	mishmash – mess, mosh – dance, mush – cereal
mass – body	mess – disarray/dining hall, M-/miss/Ms. – lady/lack/woman, +
+	moss – lichen, muss – disturb
massage – rub	message – sent information, masticate – chew, masturbate – self sex, +
+	matriculate – study [verb]
mat – rug,	mate – spouse/chess, M-/matt – male name/no luster
mauve – grayish purple	move – shift
M-/may –month/permit,	my –I [poss.], mayday [<i>m'aide</i> French] – help!
maze – labyrinth,	maize –corn, amaze –astound, amass – acquire
meal – food,	mile/-stone – distance/marker, mill/-stone – 1000/grind/-er, melee – fight
meat – flesh	met/-et – [past]-/encounter, mete – perform
medal – award	meddle – interfere
medium – means/measure	median – middle/half
media/-um – communication	means [plural]/[singular]
meld – join	melt – liquefy
melee – fight	Malay – Asian
M-/mercury – planet/quicksilver	mercurial – temperamental
mercy – forgiveness	<i>merci</i> – thank you [French], Mersey – river

meretricious – vulgar/money	meritorious – worthy
metal – chemical	mettle – spirit
mew – cat sound	moo – cow sound, mu – M/μ
mic – microphone	Mike/-cheal – male name
mind – consciousness,	mine/-d – my/dug, Mayan – former natives
miner – digger	minor – juvenile/lesser
minute – 60 seconds/small	minuet – dance
misery – suffering	miserly – stingy
miss – lack	Miss – maiden, Ms. – woman
missed – omitted	mist – water
missile – projectile	missive – message
mitt – glove	myth – legend, <i>mit</i> – with [German]
mnemonic–memory aid,	monotony/-ic repeats/rises, pneumatic –lungs
mobile – moveable	Mobil – former petroleum company
model – miniature	mottle – speckled
modern – new	moderne – art style
mahogany – wood	monogamy – single marriage
mold – fungus/form	molt – shed
mom/-my – mother	mum/-my – flower/quiet/-embalmed
moose – animal/-s	mouse/mice – foam/animal/-s, muss – mess
moot – past questioning	moat – ditch, mute – quiet, mutt – dog
more/-s – customs/additional	M-/moor – Arab/field/tie down
morn/-ing – daybreak	mourn/-ing – sad/-ness
motif – design	motive – desire
much – great,	mulch – soil, mush – ground cereal/march [Canadian]
muscle – flesh	mussel – shellfish
Muslim – Islam believer	muslin – cloth
muster – strength	mustard – seed
nacelle – cowling	nasal – nose
nag/-ger – pester/[person]	Niger – nation, nog – drink, N-/negro – race origin/color [Sp.], +
+	niggardly – stingy [Norwegian]
nail – fastener/claw	nil – nothing
narwhal – whale	gnarl – twisted
Nash – name/car	gnash – grind
natty – nicely	net – catch, newt – animal, gnat/nit – insect
naught/-y – nil/misbehave,	knot/-ty – tie/complex, node – branch, not – no, +
+	nut/-y – seed, nod – head down, note – music/jot
nauseous – makes sick	noxious – deadly gas
naval – maritime	navel – belly
nay –negative,	<i>na</i> –in the [Portuguese], <i>née</i> –born as, neigh –horse sound
near – close by	ne'er – never, nor – neither
neither – both [negative]	nether – low
negation – negative	negotiation – barter
net – catch	newt – animal
N-/nice – city/pleasant	niece – sibling daughter, gneiss – rock
nine – 9	<i>nein</i> – no [German]
noble – regal/inert gas/lofty	Nobel – chemist/prize
none – negative	nun – cleric, noon – midday
nook – opening	nuke – nuclear
nose – smell,	noose – loop, knows – know [3 rd], <i>nos</i> – in the [plural Port.]
oak – tree,	OK – approved, K – kilo/1000, <i>cay/quai</i> – island/wharf[Fr.]
oar – boat tool	or/-e – instead/mineral, o'er - over
oat – grain	out – exit, ought – should, owed – indebted

obstreperous – contrary	obstetrician – doctor
octopus – animal	octopuses – animals [plural]
of – from	off – not on, oaf – dullard
ogre – beast	orgy – love party
oh – exclamation,	owe – due, <i>O/o</i> – the [Port.], <i>au</i> – to the [French]
ohm – electrical measure	om – chant
omelet – egg meal	umlaut – +(e) [German]
on – upon	own – possess
one – 1	won – win [past]/Chinese food
ordnance – military equipment	ordinance – law
orient – locate/east	orientate – locate [British]
over – above/passed	<i>oeuvre</i> – work effort [French]
overdo – excess	overdue – late
pa – father,	<i>på</i> – on [Danish/Swedish], paw – animal foot/touch
paced – followed	paste – glue
pack/s – load, <i>pax</i> – peace [Latin],	peck – nibble, pick – ax/choose, pock/pox – disease, puck – hockey
paddle – swat,	pedal – foot lever, peddle – sell, petal – flower part
paid – pay [past]	payed – slackened
pail – bucket,	pal – friend, pale – whitish, pill – medicine/shed [verb]
pair – couple, par – equal, pare – trim,	pear – fruit, peer – equal/look, pier – wharf, pyre – crematory
pallet – mounting surface,	palate – roof of mouth, palette – paint mixer, pellet – small ball
palm – tree	pom(-pom) – cheerleader device
pan – shallow container/rate low	pain – discomfort, pane - rectangle
pang – pain	ping/-pong – sound/game, prang – dent [British]
pant – trouser/breath heavy,	paint – apply color, pint – quantity, punt – kick/defer
<i>panino</i> – sandwich [singular]	<i>panini</i> – sandwiches [plural]
paparazzo – fish, photographer	paparazzi – photographers [plural]
parameter – variable	perimeter – boundary
parity – equality	parody – imitation
parish – area	perish – die
parse – separate	pears – fruits, purse – bag/kiss
part – piece	port – harbor/liquor/left
party – celebration,	petty – small minded, potty – toilet, putty – cement
passé – old	posse – group
passed – overtook	past – former
pastiche – imitation	pistachio – nut
pastor – clergy	pasture – field, pasteurize – boiled
pat/pet – touch/animal	pit – hole, pot – container/marijuana, pout – sad, put/-t – place/stroke
patch – covering	pitch – tar/music
pathetic – sad	prophetic – foretold
patient/-ce – time tolerant	patient/-s – doctor client/-s
paunch – stomach	punch – hit
pause – stop	paws – mammal feet, pa's – dad's, posse – group
pawn – chess piece/hock	prawn – shrimp
pea/s – vegetable/-s	pee/s – urinate/-s/P, peace – tranquility, piece – portion
peak – mountain top	peek – furtive look, pique – bother/interest
pearl – jewelry	peril – danger, puerile – childish, prowl – lurk
peal/-ed – unwrap/-ped	peel – ring, pelt – fur/strike
peculiar/-ity – uniqueness	pecuniary – money, culinary – cooking
pediatrician – baby doctor	podiatrist – foot doctor
pedigree – heritage	perigee – closest
pen – enclose/write	pin – pointed
penal – punishment	penile – male sex

penchant – inclination	pension – retirement
penultimate – 2 nd to last	ultimate – 1 st /last, petulant – fretful
per – each/by	purr – cat sound
pernicious – mean spirited	promiscuous – libertine
perquisite/perk – benefit/alert	prerequisite – requirement
personal – individual	personnel – employees
perturbation – agitation	protuberance – protruding
pheasant – bird	pleasant – comfortable
phenomenon – occurrence [singular]	phenomena – occurrences [plural]
phone – telephone/-y	phony – insincere
picture – scene	pitcher – thrower/container
pie – dessert	pi – Π/π
piety – religious	pity – sorry, pithy – meaty
pile – heap	pill – medicine/bead
pilot – guide	Pontius Pilate – Roman governor
pip – bud	pipe – tube
plaid – crisscross design	played – play [past]
plain – simple/field	plane – airplane/flatten
plague – disease	plaque – sign announcement
plea/-s – request/-s	please – favor
plum – fruit	plumb – align, aplomb – confidence
plod – step	plot – plan
P-/pole – Polish/long stick,	polish – shine, poll – survey, pol – politician
poignant – relevant	pungent – strong odor
pond – lake	pound – weight/hit
poodle – dog	puddle – wet spot
pool – lake/game/gather	pull – tug
poor – not rich	pore – opening, pour – dispense/for [French]
poplar – tree	popular – well liked
poppycock – nonsense	popinjay – talkative
portend – foretell	portent – meaning, pretend – not genuine
pose – position	prose – not poetry
posh – nice/“Port Out Stern Home”	push – shove
postpone – delay	prepone – advance [Indian]
pray/-s – ask/-s	praise – compliments, prey – food
precede – prior	proceed – continue
precedence – rule	precedent – previous
precept – presumption	preset – default
precipitate – rain/cause	reciprocate – respond
precipitous – hasty	propitious – favorable
prefer – like	preferred – equity/liked, preference – choice
premier – chief	première – first performance
preparation – readiness	reparation – payment
prepare – ready	repair – correct
prerequisite – requirement	perquisite/perk – reward/alert
presence – attendance	presents – gifts/gives
prescribe – recommend	proscribe – bounded
P-/president – [with proper name]/[without],	resident – inhabitant
presume – believe	resume – start again, résumé - summary
pries – opens with effort	prize – value
prim – proper	prime – basic
prince – king’s son	print/-s – impression/-s
principal – important	principle – rule

prior – previous
 prodigy – young genius
 profit – gain
 prone – reclined
 prostate – male organ
 province – region
 proximate – next
 psychology/-ist – mental/analyst
 pubic – sexual privates
 purse – kiss ready/bag
 pylon – pole
 quack – false doctor/duck sound
 quail – animal
 quality/-ative – better
 quash – suppress
 quit – cease
 rabbit – indentation
 rabbis – clerics
 rack – display
 racket – noise/deception
 racketeer – criminal
 rail – guide/complain
 rain – precipitation,
 raise – lift/parent [verb],
 rally – gathering
 ranch – animal farm
 rap/-ped – tap/speak,
 raptor – bird
 rare – unusual
 rat – animal
 rational – logical
 read – view/-ed words,
 real – true/regal [Spanish]
 realty – home sales
 reason – logic
 reassurance – gain certainty
 rebound – come back
 recede – pull back
 recent – near past
 reckless – without care
 recreation – relaxation
 redaction – reviewed
 reek – smell bad
 refer/-red – indicate/-d,
 register – check in
 relay/-s – sequence/-s
 remainder – leftover
 remand – send back
 remuneration – payment
 rescind – cancel
 residence – home
 resolution – decision
 respite – pause

prier – opener, priory – church
 progeny – offspring
 prophet – foretell
 prune – fruit/trim
 prostrate – reclined
 provenance – origin, providence – gift
 proxy – substitute
 psychiatry/-ist – brain/doctor
 public – everyone
 purrs – cat sound
 python – snake
 quake – earth tremble
 quill – feather
 quantity/-ative – amount
 squash – plant/crush
 quite – more so, quiet – silence
 rabbit – animal
 rabies – animal disease
 rake – tool/rascal
 racquet – webbed paddle
 raconteur – story teller
 rile – disturb
 ran – run [past], reign – governance, rein – leash, Rhein – river
 race – competition/origin, raze – destroy, rays – shine
 really – true
 raunchy – rude, wrench – tool
 rape – violate, wrap – contain, rapt – engrossed
 rapture – joy, rupture – burst
 rear – back/raise, roar – yell
 rate – tariff/evaluate, writ – legal
 rationale – reason
 red – color/network [Spanish], reed – grass
 reel – coil
 reality – truth, Realtor – group
 resin – sap, raison – dried grape/reason (Fr.)
 reinsurance – secondary insurance
 redound – accrue
 reside – inhabit, reseed – replant
 resend/-t – send again/[past], rescind – cancel
 feckless – fearless
 re-creation – repeat
 reductive – simple
 wreck – damage
 reefer – refrigerator/joint, refereed – juried
 registrar – office
 rely/-ies – depend/-s
 reminder – recall
 reprimand – scold
 re-(e)numeration – recount
 resend – send again
 residents – dwellers
 revolution – change/cycle
 respiration – breathe

resume – continue	résumé – personal summary
revile – ridicule	veille – wake up
revise – change	revive – back to life
rhinoceros – animal	rhinoceroses – animals [plural]
rice – grain	rise/rose – lift/-ed/flower
rich – wealthy	wretch – horrid
rid/-s – dispose/-s,	ride – carried, writ/-s – warrant/-s, Ritz – 5 star
rife – full	riff/-raff – portion/commoner
right – correct/starboard,	rite – ceremony, wright – worker, write – print
rigor – difficult	de rigueur – proper, vigor – strength
risky – unsafe	risqué – sexually suggestive
roam – wander	Rome – city
road – path	rode – [past] ride, rowed – [past] row
rob/-bed – steal/stole,	robe/-d – clothe/-d, rub/-bed – massage/-d
roil – stir	royal - regal
role – character	roll – list/revolve
roof – building cover	rough – irregular
roomer – boarder	rumor – gossip
root – plant	rout – extract, route – plan
rose – flower/lifted	rows – lines/strokes
rot/-e – decay/memory,	rut – groove, wrought – work, wrote – printed
roughly – approximately	ruffled – loose folds
row – scuffle/boat	roué – cad, rho – P/ρ
ruin – relic/destroy	rune – letter character
rush/-es – thicket/hurry	Russ/-ia – name/nation
rustle – movement	Russell – male name, wrestle - grapple
rye – grain,	RAI – Radio Audizioni Italiane, raï – Arabic music, +
+	wry – thin/jest, awry – unplanned
sack – bag/discharge	sac – biologic container, sake – drink/interest
sacred – holy	scare/-d – frighten/-ed, scar/-red – wound/-ed
sad – unhappy	said – say [past], side – vertical, sod – soil, sighed – breathed, suds – soapy
sadden – make unhappy,	sodden – wet, sudden – quick, Sudan – nation
sadistic – cruel	statistic – data
sail – boat by wind	sale – vend, soil – dirty
sallow – sickly yellow	shallow – not deep, fallow – barren
salon – room	saloon – bar, <i>selon</i> – according [French], Ceylon/Sri Lanka – nation
salve – ointment	save – conserve, savvy – smart
sample – test	simple – not complex
sanguine – cheerful/bloody	sequin – ornament
sap – tree/drain,	sip – drink, soap – cleanser, soup – meal, sup – dine
sari – Asian dress	sorry – apology
sate/-ed – feed/fed fully	seat/-ed – chair/sat
satin – cloth	Satan – Devil
scald – burn	scold – reprimand, schooled – educated
scale – covering/weigh	skill – ability, school – learn
scam – deception	scheme – plot, skim – superficial
scamp – rascal	skimp – minimal
scar/-red – wound/-ed,	scare/-d – frighten/-ed, score/-d – gain/-ed
scene – locale	seen – had viewed
scent – smell	sent – send [past]
scepter – regal wand	specter – ghost
schooner – boat	sooner – recent
scoop – large spoon	skip – jump over

scotch – a drink	Scots – people
scrap – discard	scrape – scratch
scuff – mar	skiff – boat
scuffle – fight	shuffle – rearrange
sea – ocean,	see – province/view, C – 100, <i>si/sí</i> – if/yes [Spanish], <i>S-/sie</i> – you/she [German]
seam – stitch	seem – appear, same – identical
seaman/-en – mariner/-s	semen - seed
sear – cook	seer – foresee
seat – bottom	seed – reproductive germ
secede – withdraw	succeed – win
secession – separation	succession – sequence
secret – hidden	secrete – ooze
sects – devotees	sex – procreation
seek/-s – search/-es	Sikh/-s – Punjabi/-s, six – 6
selfish – own	shellfish – crustacean
seminal – inaugural	Seminole – native American
send/-t – deliver/-ed	scent – smell
sense – meaning	since – from [time], cents – pennies
separate – detach	serrate – dotted holes
sequence – ordering	sequins – cloth ornamentation
serf – feudal servant	surf – skim
serif – printed letter flourish	sheriff – county police
serious – thoughtful,	cereus – cactus, Sirius/Ceres – stars/goddess
sever – chop	several – a few
sewn – stitched	soon – near in time, sown – seeded
shackle – chain	shekel – coin
shall – will,	shell – (un)cover, shill – cohort, shoal – coast, school – learn
shard – fragment	shared – gave
shoe – foot/hoof,	shoo – scatter, show/-n – display/-ed, shun - avoid
shoot – young growth/fire,	shout – yell, shut – close, shot – fire [past]
should – obliged	showed – presented
shrill – high pitched	trill – sound flourish, thrill - excitement
shudder – shiver,	shutter – closure/close, stutter/sputter - hesitation
sic – verbatim/pursue	sick – ill
sigh/-s – wistful breath/-s,	size – quantity, psi – Ψ/ϕ , scythe/-s – cutter/-s
sign – indication	sin/-e – fault/trigonometry, <i>sen</i> – Japanese
silly – foolish	sully – besmirch, sally – walk
sink – basin	sync – synchronize/-d
sir/-e – male salutation	sire – birthed
slack/-s – gap/pants	slake – quench
slat – thin board	slate – list/rock, slit – narrow opening/cut
slaw – salad,	slew – killed, slow – not fast, slough – pond/shed [verb]
slay – kill	sleigh – sled
sleight – dexterous	slight – minimal
smear – wipe	schmear – spread
smelled – sensed odor	smelt – fish/metal treatment
smoke – burn	smote – strike
smoother – more flat	smother – deny air
snip – cut	snipe – bird/shoot
so – more,	sow – pig/plant, sew – stitch, S-/sue – name/legal action
soar/-ed – fly/flew,	sword – knife, sore – pain, sour/ed – rotten/[past]
sold – sell [past]	soled – shoed, soiled – dirtied, silt – mud
solder – meld	soldier - military

sole – bottom/single	soil – dirt/-y, soul – essence, Seoul – South Korea capital
solace – comfort	solstice – sun cycle extreme
some – partial	sum – total, psalm – prayer
son/-ny – male child	sun/-ny – our star/daylight
sordid – immoral	sorted – arranged
sot–drunk,	soot–ash, suit –outfit/apropos, sued–law, sought–seek [past]
sound – noise/depth	sunned – tanned
span – reach,	spin/-un – rotate/-d, sprain – hurt, Spain – nation
spar – boat item,	spare – extra, spear – sword, spore – seed, spur – extension, sparse – few
spat/spit – shoe/[past]/-discharge/roisserie,	spite – revenge, sprite – faerie/limber, spate – period
specious – false argument	species – animal grouping
speak/spoke – talk/[past]/wheel	spook – ghost
spell – time/write	spill – overturn, spool – wheel
spinner – twirls	spinster – single woman
squad – group	squid – fish, squib – degrees, squab – bird
staff – stick/assistants	staphylococcus – bacteria
staid – sober/established	stayed – remained
stair – tread	star – sky/actor, stare – look at, starboard – right
stake – investment/spike	steak – beef, stack – pile
stationary – fixed in place	stationery – writing paper
statue – model	statute – law
steal/stole –rob/-bed/coat,	steel –metal, stool – chair/feces, stale – old
steep – sloped/linger	step – advance, steppe – prairie
steer/-ed – animal/guide/-d	stir/-red – mix/-ed
stick/-s – branch/-es	shtick – act, Styx – river
stop – halt	stoop – stairs/bend
straight – direct	strait – narrow
strange – bizarre	strangle – squeeze
strain – sift/stretch	strewn – scattered
sully – besmirch,	surly – rude, surely – positively, Shirley–female name
summary – outline	summery – warm
sundae – dessert	Sunday – Sabbath/day
sublime – chemical/subtle	supine – back
sudden – quick	Sudan – nation
sugary – sweet	surgery – medical cutting
suit – appropriate/clothing	suite - room
superficial – skim	superfluous – unnecessary, supercilious – arrogant
surpass – better	surprise – unexpected
swap – exchange	sweep – clean, swipe – steal, swoop – fly
swat/-h – swipe/cut	swarthy – dark
sweat – perspiration	sweet – sugary
swell/swoll – enlarge/[past]/great	swill – spoiled
swish – sashay	Swiss – Switzerland, swoosh – air sound
symbol – emblem	cymbal – drum instrument
tabulation – tally	titillation – tease, tintinnabulation – tinkling
tack/-s/-ed – fasten(er)/-s/-ed	tact – skill, take – receive, tax – fee
tail – rear	tale – story, tell – say
talk – say	tock – clock sound (tick-)
tambour – drum	tamper – disrupt
tap–touch,	tape–fasten/record, tip–turnover/benefit, type–genre/print
taper – attenuate	tapir – animal
tar – petroleum,	tare – net weight, tear/tore – eye/rip/[past], tier – stage, +
+	tire – wheel/fatigue, tour – travel

taro – vegetable	tarot – cards
tarp – covering	top – above
tart – sweet	tort – damage
taught – instructed,	taut – tight, tout – promote/all [French], tot – child, tote – carry, toot - whistle
tea/-s – a drink	tease – taunt, tee/-s – T/Ts, tí – you [Spanish]
teat – nipple	tit/tat – response, tight – secure
teepee – native tent	TP – toilet paper
teethe – growing pain	tithe – church donation
telepathy – mind reading	telephony – telephones
temblor – quake	timber – wood, tremble – shiver
temerity – fearless	timidity – shyness
temper – anger/anneal	timber – lumber, temperature - heat
temporal – time	tempera – paint, tempura – Japanese food
temptation – desire	tintinnabulation – tinkling
ten – 10	tin – metal, tine – fork
tentacle – extremity	testicle – male sex
tent/-s – cloth structure,	taint – not pure, tint/-s – color, tense – time/anxious
tern – bird	turn – revolve, torn – ripped
than – comparative	then – followed, thin – not thick, thine – yours
the – specific	thee – you, they – them, though – however
their – possessive,	there – place, there're – there are, they're – they are
theirs – possessive [plural]	there's – there is
these – nearby	thesis/-es – idea/-s
thirsty – dry	Thursday – day
threw – throw [past]	through – method, thorough – entire
tick/-tock – insect/twitch/time second,	tuck – place inside, toke – puff, toque – hat, +
+ tie – knot, equal	<i>touque</i> – warm hat [Canadian]
till – cashbox/turn soil/to [Swedish],	Thai – Thailand
time – clock	'til – until, <i>til</i> – to [Danish]
tip – benefit/turn over	thyme – seasoning
tire – wheel/fatigue	type – version/write
to – infinitive/direction,	tyre – wheel [British]
toad – frog	too – also/very, two – 2, <i>tu</i> – you [Spanish]
toe – foot digit	towed – pulled
told – said	tow – pull, tau – T/τ
ton/-ne – 2,000 pounds/[British],	tolled – rang, toiled – worked
+ torrents – inundation	tone – pitch, atone – undo harm, toon – cartoon, +
turret/-s - revolving platform	tune – song/adjust pitch
towel – drying cloth	Torrance – city/name
trail – path,	Tourette/-'s – speech disorder
train – vehicle/exercise	trowel – tool, troll – gnome
translation – change language	trawl – drag, troll – dwarf, trial – deliberation, trill – sound
trap – snare	trine – triple
tread/trod – sole/step/[past]	transliteration – translate letters
treaty – agreement	trip/-e – journey/misstep/worthless, troop – group
treble –music/3 times [adj.],	treed – up a tree, tried – try [past]/juried
treachery – betrayal	traitor – betrayer
trellis – support	thrice/triple – 3 times, trouble – difficulty
trench – hole	treasury – funds
tribulation – trial	trestle – bridge
tri – triple	<i>tranche</i> – slice [French]
	trepidation – fear
	try – attempt

trickle – drip	treacle – molasses
trumpet – bugle	strumpet – prostitute
trust – rely	tryst – meeting, <i>triste</i> –sad [French]
turban – hat	turbine – impeller
tutor – instruct	Tudor – style, two door – car
tweet – chirp	twit – simpleton
twin – pair	twine – string
udder – cow mammary	utter – speak/entire
underling – subordinate	underlining – underscored
unique – one of a kind,	eunuch – castrated male, UNIX - computer
until – ‘til, up to	till – cash box, turnover
vain – selfish	vane – propeller, vein – path/meaning, vine – plant
valet – servant	valley – depression
valor – courage	velour – velvet
valuable – worthy	viable – life
vary – change	very – more so
vat – container	vet – veteran/veterinarian/examine
venal – abhorrent	venerable – persistent
veneer – appliqué	vernier – adjustment device
venous – vein	Venus – planet/goddess
verbal – oral	vernal – autumn
verses – lyrics	versus – counter/against
vertex – angle	vortex – turbulence
vial – container	vile – abhorrent
vie – compete	V – 5
victuals/vittles – food/[slang]	vitals – life statistics
violence – physical harm	violets – flowers
virga – dry rain	virgin – chaste, <i>verga</i> – penis [Spanish]
virtual – realistic	virtuous – righteous
waif–child,	wave–salute, wove–sew [past], wife–woman, waive–excuse
wail/-s – cry/-ies,	wall/-s – side, whale/-s – sea mammal/-s, Wales
waist – mid body	waste – left over
wait –delay,	wet–moisten, weight–proportion/measurement, wit–smart
waitress – female server	wastrel – waster
waive – exception	wave – undulate, WAVES – Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service
wake/-s – funeral/wave/-s,	WAC – Women’s Army Corps, wax – bees
walk – proceed by foot,	wok – cooking utensil, woke – wake [past]
wander – without goal	wonder – question
want – desire	wont – predisposed, won’t – will not
ware – products	wear/wore – clothe/[past], wire – thread, weir – breakwater, +
+	were – be [past], we’re – we are, wary – cautious
warehouse – depot	Wherehouse – store name
warrior – soldier	warier – more cautious, wearier – more tired
warship – military vehicle	worship – pray
wary – afraid	weary – tired
was/-n’t – be[past]/-not,	way/-s – path/-s, weigh/-s –measure/-s, whey – milk product
we – us	wee – small
weak – not strong	week – 7 days
weather – climate	whether – if
weave – intersperse	we’ve – we have
wed – marry	we’d – we would, weed – undesirable plant
weird – different	wired – electrified
weld – bond	wield – manipulate

well – source/good [adverb]	we'll – we will
wench – woman	wrench – tool, ranch – animal farm
wet – moist	whet – sharpen, wit – smarts
where're – where are	whir – spin
which – choice	witch – supernatural woman
while – during	wile – skill/idle
whine – shrill complaint	wine – drink
whinge – complain	wing – flight
whirled – swung	world – environ
whistle – shrill sound	wistful - longing
who's – [subject]/who is	whom – [object], whose – possessive
why – question	Y, y – and [Spanish]
wiener – frankfurter	winner – best player
windy – gusty	Wendy – girl's name [L. Carroll]
wood – tree material	would/-n't – inclined/-not
wrath – dislike	wreath – laurel
wreck – destroyed	reek – smell, rake – rascal/tool
yacht – boat	yet – until
yank – pull sharply	Yank – Yankee
yarn – story/twine	yearn – desire
yawl – tool	y'all – you all
year – time	you're – you are, your – [possessive], yore – past
you'd – you would	Yute – Indian
you'll – you will,	Yule – Christmas, y'all – you all, Yale – university
yuck – disdain	yuk/-s – laugh/-s
zoo – animal park	zu – to [German]
zoom – fast sound	zum – to the [German]

Style Preferences

Proper nouns (things that are unique) are capitalized including the names of days and months, but seasons (*winter, spring, summer, fall/autumn*) are not unless used as proper nouns (*This year the Spring Festival will start in winter*). This usage contrasts to German where all nouns are capitalized versus say French where adjectival proper nouns are not (*une voiture américaine*). Generally a title for a person's position is not capitalized unless part of a proper name (*president of the United States* vs. *President Lincoln*). Title and heading conjunctions and prepositions are often not capitalized (*and, or, but, in, on, of, against, under, ...*) unless it is the first word with a heading normally taking no punctuation, no underlining (unless secondary), nor italics (unless *tertiary*). A heading should start the next page if nothing would appear below it on the same page.

Subject noun and verb agreement regarding singular and plural is *de rigueur* in English; in the third person, non irregular forms have a terminal *s* on either the subject noun (plural) or the verb (singular) as in *the car runs* vs. *the cars run*. Superlatives should be unmodified, but consider from the U.S. Constitution: “*In order to form a more perfect union.*” Preferred spellings exist for: *abridgment, acknowledgment* and *judgment* (not *-dgement*), as well as for: *collectible, compatible, convertible, and deductible* (not *-able*). Consider the following past tense words with double terminal consonants: *cancelled, conferred, deferred, inferred, preferred, occurred, and referred* but *offered* and *traveled*.

Multiple adverbs and adjectives take a hyphen between related words (*two-year multiple course disciplines*), [verb]-[preposition] takes a hyphen when used as a noun (*shake-down, strike-out, break-up*), as well as the written numbers between *twenty-one* and *ninety-nine*. Writing programs often convert two hyphens to a dash (–) and is appropriate for an explanation. Common abbreviations include e.g. (examples), i.e. (namely), and NB (note well as in a footnote). Superscripts are used in mathematical expressions and as citations to footnotes or references (¹); subscripts are used for differentiated variables (*A₁* vs. *A₂*).

Counted small integer numbers are properly spelled out as words; sizes are properly expressed as numerals (*three 2 ounce packages*). Pagination uses lower case Roman numerals for a preface and Arabic numerals thereafter. Use a decimal point (.) in numbers for proportions less than one and commas (,) between thousands, but not for

years; this differs from some European notation which may reverse these or use spaces for thousands; U.S. billion and trillion may be European milliard and billion respectively. Ordinal numbers (can be treated arithmetically) are written in Arabic characters (3, 1647, etc.); cardinal numbers (nominal or not subject to arithmetic treatment) are written in Roman numerals (*III*, *MDCXLVII*, etc.). Educational degree award dates and dates of publication take brackets [2011], employment periods take parentheses (*from- to*). Parenthesis usage is nested as ([{ ... }]) for written words and mathematical expressions. Non original parenthetical remarks within quotations take brackets; a common non original parenthetical remark is “[*sic*]” denoting an uncorrected literal quotation. If a quotation is preceded by a full sentence, place a colon (:) between them. If a quotation is preceded by a verb, place a comma (,) between them; if preceded by “*that*” for an indirect quotation then no quotation marks are used. While subject to variation, punctuation should end within the closing quotation mark (“.”), (“!”), and (“?”) if in the original; note that others including *Jeopardy!* place these marks (“?”) after for titles. Names of books and publications are *italicized* (formerly underlined) as are foreign and new words or for emphasis. **Bold font** may be used to denote important words.

The opening and closing quotation marks properly appear as inverted versions of each other (“...” with single versions (‘...’) for quotations within a quotation (British practice is reversed). Double spacing is preferred between sentences (and avoids confusion regarding terminal abbreviations)—likewise two spaces precede post/zip codes and follow after colons (:) and before the start of a list. Commas (,) separate all listed items of three or more (...*colleges of Baltimore, William and Mary, and Dover*); semicolons (;) separate closely related sentences and they separate greater lists from lesser lists. Spacing between ellipses (...) and initials (*U.S.*) may be omitted. Symbols (% and \$, €, or £) are used in tables, but in a sentence are properly spelled out (*percent* and *dollar -s*, or *euro -s*, or *pound -s*). The apostrophe (’) appears before the *s* for possessives and after for plural possessives (*Jones’* vs. *Joneses* but *St. James’s Place*). Numbers receive similar treatment (*the 40s* or *‘40s*) while notable decades are spelled out as proper names (*the Twenties, the Sixties*). References list citations; a bibliography may contain additional references. Styles vary significantly, but a generally accepted one is to present them alphabetically not indented, by author’s last then first name, coauthor’s first then last name(s), title in quotation marks, publication in italics, date of publication in brackets, then publisher and location *or* volume/edition number, date, and pages therein with unnecessary commas being generally omitted. Internet sources should provide similar information if available and the URL. Examples are:

Author, First and Second Author, *Text* [2012] Publisher, Place

Author, First, “Title” *Journal Name* Vol. 1, No. 2 [Month, 2012] pp. 1-10

Author, First, “Title” [Month, 2012] www.URL.com

See also:

<http://www.aresearchguide.com/styleguides.html>

Common Errors in English Usage,

<http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#errors>

Damn You Auto Correct,

<http://damnyouautocorrect.com/13603/the-25-funniest-autocorrects-of-dyacs-first-year/>

Dictionary.Reference.com,

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/search>

Funk & Wagnall’s Standard College Dictionary, California State Department of Education

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Errors Caused by Over-Reliance on Spelling Checkers, by Sean Igo,

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/spellcheck.html>

Spell Checker “Misspellings,” <http://englishplus.com/news/news0102.htm>

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Spelling and Grammar Errors that Can Ruin Your Site; Common Spelling and Grammar Errors on Web Pages, Jennifer Kymin, <http://webdesign.about.com/od/grammar/a/common-spelling-errors.htm>

Strunk, William and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style* [1959] Pearson Education Co.; [2000] Longman

Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* [2007] University of Chicago Press

Writer’s Block, <http://www.writersblock.ca/tips/monthtip/tipmay96.htm>