

POLICE OFFICER
PREPARATION MATERIALS

3

Grammar and Usage – Frequently Confused Words

Two (2) of the most frequently used expressions in our language are, “what I mean is” and “you know.” Each of these terms indicates that the speaker is not quite sure of his/her own meaning; is not quite certain of how to express him/herself, and hopes desperately that the listener does indeed understand. Usually this is the result of confusion about words that sound alike but have different meanings, or about commonly used words whose meaning we really do not know. What follows is an annotated list of familiar words and expressions with clues to distinguishing among them.

a/an:

These are called indefinite articles. They are used as adjectives. The distinction between them is simple: use a before words beginning with consonants or with vowels that sound like a y:

a man, a plant, a usual procedure a ewe

Use an before words beginning with vowels, or with initial unvoiced consonants:

an opera, an opening; an honest man (but, a history book)

Occasionally you will come across this usage: an historic moment. This, however, is more a British, scholarly use than it is American.

accept (v)/except (prep):

For the most part the confusion with these words stems from pronunciation. There are, however, great differences in their meaning:

Accept is a *verb* meaning to take or to receive. A sure way to recall this is to remember that a verb shows *action*. Action begins with an *a*, and *accept*, the verb, is spelled with an *a*.

Except is a *preposition* (a word such as for, from, in, to, with, etc., functioning to indicate certain relations between other words). Remember the *e* in preposition. It means *without* or *omitting*.

advice (n)/advise (v):

Here's a little trick. The noun *advice* means a suggestion, recommendation or guidance given. It contains within itself the noun *ice* ... which sometimes describes the manner with which *advice* is received!

Advised is a *verb* that means *to give advice* or guidance.

affect (v)/effect (n):

Affect is a *verb* meaning to have an influence upon, to cause, to assume an attitude. Remember – *action* (v) – a – *affect*.

Effect is usually used as a *noun* meaning result. (Notice the *e*.) Remember the expression – *cause and effect*.

Note: Sometimes, but not frequently, the word *effect* is used as a verb meaning to force, to overcome an obstacle. (The troop *effected* an entry into the fort.)

aggravate (v)/irritate (v):

Here are two of the most wanted items in the lists of *misusage*! Colloquial use, TV advertising and general sloppiness cause the difficulty.

Aggravate is a *verb* meaning *to make worse, to intensify*. It indicates the sense of making a bad situation even worse. Example: The problems of achieving peace are *aggravated* by the action of terrorists.

Irritate is a *verb* which means *to annoy, to pester, to provoke, to exasperate*. Example: Crying children will *irritate* a busy, harassed mother; a hungry husband, demanding dinner, will surely *aggravate* her condition.

all right:

Here's a strange contradiction: we are asked to spell one word, and we must respond with two. But that's the clue: *all right* – two l's, two words.

The other words of this group have only one l and are only one word. Examples: *almost, Almighty, already, altogether, although, always*.

alley (n)/ally (n. v):

Alley is a *noun* (pronounced alee). It rhymes with Sally. Its plural – remember the rule! – is simply alleys.

Ally is both *noun* and *verb* (pronounced al-lie). As a *noun* it means a companion or friend or partner; as a *verb* it means to become a companion or partner. Its plural is spelled *allies*.

allusion (n)/illusion (n):

Allusion means a reference to, a hint. It comes from the verb *to allude to*.

Illusion means a false impression or a mistaken notion. Thus, a little earlier we made an *allusion* to Nathan Hale; in a desert we may see a mirage, an optical *illusion*.

altar (n)/alter (v):

Here it is the similarity of pronunciation that causes difficulty:

Altar is a *noun* meaning a platform or raised table related to worship or *sacrifice*. (Keep the *a* in mind.)

Alter, the *verb* means to change or to revise.

amount (n, v)/number (n, v)

Each of these refers to the same general idea.

Amount is the *noun*, which refers to a *mass* of some one thing: He always carried a small *amount* of money. There is a tremendous *amount* of power in the Raider's offensive line.

Number is the *noun*, which refers to *many individual units*: There were a *number* of fumbles during the game. He had a *number* of coins in his hand.

When we use *number*, we use a plural noun when called for: a *number of coins*; a *number of beautiful women*. The term amount is tied to the singular: an amount of *power, beauty, wealth*.

As verbs, *amount* and *number* are quite similar; but there are distinctions:

Amount – verb – to add up to, to result: He will never *amount* to anything; It *amounts* to the same thing.

Number – verb – to count, to include: I *number* him among my friends.

as (conj)/like (prep):

Do you remember the big fuss created by the famous Winston cigarette ad: “Winston tastes good *like* a cigarette should.” For a brief time the correct grammatical form was tried “... *as* a cigarette should.” But the pressure was too great, so the incorrect, popular usage was retained. But what is the grammatical rule?

As is a *subordinating conjunction* which, introduces a dependent element and denotes comparison. In all cases where a verb does or can follow, use *as*; Thus: Do *as I do*; He speaks *as I do*. He is *as tall as* I (am).

Like is a *preposition*, and it *must* be followed by a noun or pronoun in the objective case: He speaks *like me*; Act *like her*. It sounded *like a mob*.

The test is simple: if you can add a verb after the comparison, use *as*; if not, use *like*.

ascent (n)/assent (n, v):

Ascent is a *noun* meaning the act of going up, of rising: Hilary made the *ascent* of Everest. Here’s a trick: break the word into two parts – a-scent: scent is an odor; an odor rises – hence, ascent – going up, rising.

Assent, the noun, mean approval. The verb – *to assent* – means to give approval.

avenge (v)/revenge (n, v):

Both words deal with the same idea – retaliation for an injury.

Avenge, the verb, means to retaliate or seek reprisal for injury to others: I will *avenge* their deaths.

Revenge, the *noun* means retribution; the *verb* means to punish.

bare (adj., v)/bear (v)/bear (n):

Bare: Something which stands exposed or uncovered is *bare* (adj.): To remove one’s hat is to *bare* (verb) one’s head. As a verb the word *bare* has the following principal parts: bare, bared (past), have, has or had bared.

Bear: To carry something or to withstand pain is to *bear* (verb) it: Grin and *bear* it! The principal parts of the verb are: bear, bore (past), have, has, had borne.

Bear: The great hairy creature, brown, black or which, is called a *bear* (noun): I’m so hungry I could eat a *bear*!

bazaar (n)/bizarre (adj.):

A *bazaar* is a marketplace.

Bizarre is an adjective meaning exotic, out of the ordinary, strange: He visited a *bizarre bazaar* in the Casbah.

been (v):

Been is the past participle of the verb *to be*. It is *always* used with a helping verb: *I have been* there; *He has been* there: They've all *been* there. (Contraction for: They have...)

being (n, v):

Being, the *noun*, means a person or creature: He is a sensible *being*.

Being is the present participle of the verb *to be*. As such it may introduce a participial phrase: *Being a good man*, he pays his taxes cheerfully. *Being* is *never* used to introduce a dependent clause: *Being he was hungry*, he ate. Even worse is: *Being that he was hungry*, he ate. **NEVER USED THE EXPRESSIONS:** *being he* or *being that he...* The correct forms are: *Since he was hungry...* or *Because he...*

beside (prep)/besides (adv):

Beside as a *preposition*, introduces a phrase. The first noun or pronoun that follows it is its *object*. *Beside* means alongside of, next to: The spider sat down *beside* her; Park the car *beside* the house.

Besides is an adverb that means *in addition to, also*. He is a good punter, *besides* being a good passer.

breath (v)/breath (n)

The verb *to breathe* (pronounced "breethe,") means to draw *breath* (noun) – pronounced *breth*.

bring (v)/take (v):

To bring means movement *towards* the speaker. *To take* means movement *away* from the speaker.

burst (n, v)/bust (n):

The noun *burst* means the sudden explosion itself: A *burst* of flame soared skyward. *To burst* means to shatter explosively and suddenly. The principal parts of the verb are: burst (past), have, has, had burst.

Bust is the noun that means a portrait or piece of sculpture or that part of the human body between the waist and head.

The contemporary colloquial TV and headline use of the word *bust* to mean a raid is exactly that – colloquial, TV-ese, journalese – and not grammatically correct!

capital (adj, n)/Capitol (n):

Capital – adjective – main, principal, chief – remember the *a*'s. As a noun *capital* means accumulated wealth or money: capital and labor. It also means a large letter in print or the principal city in a state or nation: Washington is the capital of the U.S.A.

Capitol – noun – government building, frequently with a dome. Visualize the Capitol dome in Washington.

Note: Capitol with the *o* is used *only as a noun*. Capital spelled with *a* may be an *adjective* or *noun*, depending upon its use.

cancel (n, v)/cancel (n, v):

The banning of books, plays or films is the work of a *cancel* (noun) and the action is to *cancel* (verb). The word is pronounced sen-sir.

As a noun *cancel* means the scolding or rebuke itself. *Cancel* (pronounced sen-sheer) means to rebuke or to scold (verb).

coarse (adj)/course (n):

Coarse as an *adjective* means rough, unrefined and may be applied to salt, sugar or people. Visualize: coarse – adjective.

Course is a *noun*, which means a *route* or direction, or a *routine* state of things, like a *course* of study.

complement (n, v)/compliment (n, v):

Complement is a *noun* meaning a crew or staff, or anything which completes something: The ship's complement. As a verb, *complement* means to bring to completion.

Compliment as noun or verb means either praise or applause given, or to praise and applaud.

comprise (v)/consist of (v):

These are two words meaning basically the same thing, which are usually confused and misused.

To *comprise* means to be made up of. Note its particular use: A football team *comprises* eleven men.

Consist of also means to be made up of. It, however, always makes use of the *of*: A football team *consists of* eleven men.

conscience (n)/conscious (adj):

Conscience is pronounced con-shens. Think of con-*science*. Jiminy Cricket was his conscience.

Conscious, the adjective is pronounced con-shus. He was still conscious after his fall.

continual (adj)/continuous (adj): (Note the *al* and *ous* – typical adjective endings!)

Continual – Visualize a faucet not quite shut off. The water comes out in a long line of *separate, individual drops* – this is a *continual* flow. Open the tap a little more. Now you have a thin, *unbroken*

flow of water – it is *continuous*. A *continuous* noise never stops: a *continual* noise is constantly repeated.

corporeal (adj)/corporal (n, adj):

Corporeal is a four-syllable word – *cor-po-ree-al* meaning pertaining to the body, bodily.

Corporal as a *noun* means the military, noncommissioned rank. *Corporal* as an *adjective* means physical – as in *corporal* punishment.

consul (n)/council (n)/counsel (n, v):

A *consul*, pronounced kon-sul, is a diplomatic representative. A *council*, pronounced cown-sil, is an advisory body. *Counsel*, pronounced cown-sil, as a *noun* means the advice or suggestion given. As a *verb* means to advise, to suggest.

could of/would of/should of:

These are three completely wrong expressions that should be avoided like the plague. They come as a result of pronunciation of the contractions – could've, would've, should've – which are really *could have, would have and should have*.

desert (n)/desert (n)/desert (v)/dessert (n):

Here pronunciation is the key. *Desert* – (noun) accent on the second syllable – means worthiness of reward or punishment: He got his just *desert*. *Desert* – (noun) the only one of the group with the *accent on the first syllable*, means a sand, arid waste: the Mohave *Desert*. *Desert* – (verb) accent on the second syllable – means to abandon or to leave without permission: He refused to *desert* his post. *Dessert* – means the final portion of a meal, usually a sweet. Remember the term “something sweet,” and you will not misspell or misuse the word!

device (n)/devise (v):

Remember *advice* and *advise*? *Device* – a *noun* – meaning a tool or implement or plan. *Devise* – a *verb* – meaning to make a plan, tool or implement: You *devise* a *device*.

dye (n, v):

As a *noun*, this means a color added to something. As a *verb*, it means to add or change a color. Note: In writing the present participle of the verb, we retain the *e* – They are *dyeing* the fabric.

emigrant (n)/immigrant (n):

This is merely a matter of direction. *Emigrant* – is one who *leaves* his country. *Immigrant* – is one who *enters* another country. Thus, one *emigrates from one land* and *immigrates into another*.

eminent (adj)/imminent (adj):

Eminent means outstanding, important, distinguished. *Imminent* means something about to happen, usually threatening or not happy: Disaster seemed *imminent*.

envelop (v)/envelope (n):

Envélop has the accent on the second syllable – en-vél-op. It means to surround or to enclose. *Envelope* has the accent on the first syllable – en-ve-lope; the last syllable is pronounced *lope*.

epigram (n)/epitaph (n)/ epithet (n):

An *epigram* means a short, usually witty saying: Whatever is, is right, I think therefore I am; All that glitters is not gold.

A *epitaph* is the statement usually inscribed on tombstones.

A *epithet* indicates some peculiar or distinctive characteristic of a person: Richard the Lionhearted; Alexander the Great. Frequently, colloquially used epithets are not complimentary!

exalt (v)/exult (v):

Exalt means to raise or to elevate. Remember the *alt* is *altitude*. *Exult* means to rejoice, to be triumphantly happy.

faint (v, adj)/feint (n, v):

To *faint* means to lose consciousness; as a noun – He fell in a *faint*, it means the loss of consciousness.

Feint, the verb, means to make a false or misleading move in order to throw someone off guard; the *feint* is the actual movement.

fair (n, adj)/fare (n, v):

The noun *fair* means a kind of open market, like a bazaar. *Fair*, the adjective means pleasant, just, or light in complexion or color. *Fare*, the noun, means payment for transportation. As a verb, *fare* means to go: How did you *fare*? (get along, go) The word *farewell* means to go successfully, in peace.

formerly (adv)/formally (adv):

Form-er-ly comes from the adjective *former*, meaning prior or previously. *Form-al-ly* comes from the adjective *formal*, meaning proper or - suitable.

hang (v):

The correct use of this verb is a little tricky. It involves some strange human traits. To *hang* a thing – picture, shelf, lamp – has the following principal parts: hang, hung (past tense), hung. To *hang* a man has these principal parts: hang, hanged (past), hanged and hung.

idle (adj, v)/idol (n)/idyll (n):

Idle, adjective, means lazy, not working. *Idle*, verb, means to operate slowly – the motor *idled*. *Idol*, noun, is an image which is worshipped. *Idyll*, noun, refers to a peaceful, calm scene or atmosphere.

impetus (n)/impetuous (adj):

Impetus – noun – three syllables, with the accent on the first syllable, means energy, drive. *Impetuous* – adjective – has four syllables – imp-pet-u-ous, accent on the second syllable – meaning rash or too bold.

imply (v)/infer (v):

The distinction between these two words involves a matter of direction. *Imply* – verb – means to hint at, to allude, to state indirectly. It involves direction *away* from the speaker. He *implied* that I was a coward. *Infer* – verb – means to draw meaning from, to grasp, to draw a conclusion from. It involves direction *towards* the person doing the inferring. I *inferred* from what he said that he was displeased.

ingenious (adj)/ingenuous (adj):

Ingenious – with the *i*, means inventive or clever. Think of the sound of genius. *Ingenuous* – with the *u* – means naïve, innocent, gullible.

lead (n, v)/lead (n)/led (v):

As a noun *lead* (leed) – means ahead, going before. *Lead* – noun – pronounced *led* – is the metal. To *lead* – verb – is pronounced *leed*; the principal parts are: lead; *led* (past); have, has, had *led*.

Note: The only use of the word *led* is as past and past participle of the verb *to lead*.

leave (n, v)/let (v):

As a noun *leave* means a holiday or permission: To be on leave; You have my leave to go. The verb *to leave* means to go away from, to go out: Leave the room! Leave me alone! (This means actually to go away from me.)

Let – verb – to permit or allow: *Let* him alone! (Allow him to be alone – in the sense of “Don’t annoy him.”)

lie (n, v)/lie (v)/lay (v):

The noun *lie* is the untruth itself. *To lie* as a verb means to tell an untruth. The verb has the following principal parts: lie; lied (past); have, has, had lied. *Lie* as another verb means to recline, to stretch out. It is very frequently followed by the adverb *down* – to lie down. The principal parts are: lie, lay, have, has, had *lain*.

To lay means to put or set. *But it always takes an object* – you *lay something* down. Remember the old song, “Lay that pistol down, Babe!” The principal parts are: lay, laid, have, has, had laid. Note: If you can substitute the word *put, place* or *set* – you should use the verb *to lay*.

loose (adj)/lose (v)/loss (n):

The adjective *loose*, meaning untied or free, is pronounced with a sharp *s*. The verb *lose* is pronounced as though it had a *z* – looz. The noun *loss* is pronounced with a sharp final *s*, like boss.

moral (adj, no)/morale (n):

The adjective *moral* – pronounced mor-al – means just, ethical, good. When used as a noun – with the same pronunciation – it means a lesson, something learned: “the *moral* of the story.” The noun *morale* – pronounced mo-ral – means spirit, zeal, state of mind.

naval (adj)/navel (n):

Naval – adjective – pertaining to the navy. *Navel* – noun – means what is commonly referred to as the “belly button.” A little crude, perhaps, but remember the *e* in belly and the *e* in navel.

obligate (v)/oblige (v):

There is a rather nice distinction between these. *Obligate* means to put moral pressure on someone; to create a feeling that a favor must be returned. It is largely a psychological reaction. *Oblige* has the sense of truly forcing someone to do something. Even when, as it sometimes does, it means *to please*, there is a sense of coercion.

passed (v)/past (n, adj):

The verb is *to pass*. Its principal parts are: *pass, passed, has, have, had passed*: He *passed* the place. The noun or adjective referring to times gone by is *past*: History deals with the *past*; the *past* glories of Greece.

peace (n)/piece (n):

The easiest way to handle these two is to master one: *Piece* means a share or part of. Think of a *piece of pie*. *Peace* means quiet, or no war.

personal (adj)/personnel (n):

The adjective *personal* refers to one's person or something private: *personal* property. *Personnel* -- accent on the last syllable -- means a group or staff or crew: the *personnel* in the office.

practicable (adj)/practical (adj):

Practicable means something that can actually be accomplished, that is feasible. *Practical* means useful, a good idea; the opposite of theoretical.

principal (adj, n)/principle (n):

Principle is always a noun. It means an ethical standard or matter of belief: It is against my *principles* to lie. *Principal* as an adjective means main, chief, most important. As a noun *principal* usually refers to the chief officer of a school. Remember -- the *principal* is your *pal*. As a noun it also refers to the chief sum -- the *principal* in a bank.

prodigy (n)/protégé (n):

Prodigy -- noun -- means an unusually gifted person, usually young, a child prodigy. She was a child *prodigy*, and gave her first violin recital at the age of nine. *Protégé* -- noun -- means the special pupil or student of. The quarterback was the *protégé* of the famous coach. This word has no implication of age or genius.

prophecy (n)/prophesy (v):

The noun *prophecy* -- pronounced pro-feh-see -- means a prediction. The verb *prophesy* -- pronounced pro-feh-sign -- means to make a forecast or a prediction.

The letter q:

The letter *q*, whenever it occurs in an English word, is *invariably* followed by the letter *u*.

quiet (adj, n)/quit (v)/quite (adv):

Quiet, whether used as a noun or an adjective, has two syllables -- kwi-et -- and means silent. (On occasion it may be used as a verb -- to *quiet* the class.) *Quit* -- pronounced kwit -- means to leave a place or to stop. *Quite*, the adverb is pronounced kwite -- and means almost, practically, or somewhat: I'm *quite* finished; She's *quite* pretty.

rain (n, v)/reign (n, v)/rein (n, v):

Rain, as a noun or a verb, refers to the moisture dropped from above. A good way to remember the spelling is to think of the lines from *My Fair Lady*: The *rain* in Spain stays *mainly* in the *plain*. *Reign*, again as a noun or a verb, means either to rule or to govern, or the rule or government itself. *Rein* – pronounced rane – is the strap used to control a horse. As a verb, it means *to control* the horse.

real (adj)/really (adv):

Here is the case of abuse of two good words. *Real* – as an adjective – means tangible, actual. It modifies a noun: A *real* coin, a *real* beauty, a *real* contest. *Really* – the *ly* proclaims it an adverb – means truly, actually. It modifies a verb, adverb, or adjective and indicates degree: I'm *really* troubled. They *really* flew.

A good way to overcome the difficulty of choosing between them is to make use of the words “certain” and “certainly.” Would you say, “I’m *certain* glad to see you”? No. Therefore, “I’m *really* glad to see you,” or “I’m *certainly* glad...”

rob (v)/steal (v):

When you *rob* a person or place, you *steal* something from it. To *rob* a bank means to take money from it; to *steal* a bank would mean to cart the whole thing away.

Rout (n, v)/route (n, v):

Rout, meaning a flight in disarray or, as a verb, to chase an army or foe, rhymes with *out*. *Route*, meaning a direction or, as a verb, to direct, is pronounced *root*.

set (v)/sit (v):

To *set* means to place or put. To *sit* means to occupy a seat.

stationary (adj)/stationery (n):

Remember that *stationary* is an adjective meaning motionless, fixed, not portable. *Stationery*, the noun, refers to paper.

sure (adj)/surely (adv):

Remember real and really! *Sure*, an adjective modifies a noun: A *sure* thing. *Surely*, adverb, describes a manner: He spoke *surely*. Remember the equation: sure-real-certain; surely-really-certainly.

teach (v)/learn (v):

You *teach* something to someone. You *learn* something yourself, perhaps from someone else. *Teach* involves giving; *learn* involves receiving.

their (pron)/there (adv)/they're (contraction for they are):

Their is a possessive pronoun, belonging or pertaining to them: *their* home. Remember the word *heir*, one who will possess something. *There* (adv) means the opposite of *here*. And *they're*, as we have seen, is the contraction for *they are*.

to (prep)/too (adv)/two (adj, n):

To – preposition – meaning in the direction of, or part of all English infinitives. *Too* – adverb – indicates degree: *too* much, *too* little, *too* late. *Two*, as adjective or noun, refers to the number.

weather (n)/whether (conj):

Weather refers to the condition of heat, rain, snow, cold out of doors in nature. *Whether* refers to a relationship between two words or concepts.

EXERCISE A: *In each of the following sentences you must choose between two words. Fill in your choices in the blanks to the right.*

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-------|
| 1. | He was unwilling to (accept, except) my gift. | 1. | _____ |
| 2. | I had bought it in a Moroccan (bazaar, bizarre). | 2. | _____ |
| 3. | It was really my (advice, advise) that changed his mind. | 3. | _____ |
| 4. | And that in itself was a rather (bazaar, bizarre) matter. | 4. | _____ |
| 5. | It is usually very difficult to (advice, advise) him about anything. | 5. | _____ |
| 6. | But since he was annoyed, all I said only served to (aggravate, irritate) him. | 6. | _____ |
| 7. | Actually, I had made absolutely no (illusion, allusion) to his attitude. | 7. | _____ |
| 8. | Even that admission did little to (altar, alter) his opinion. | 8. | _____ |
| 9. | I had spoken to him any (amount, number) of times. | 9. | _____ |
| 10. | If he continues this way, he will (burst, bust) with frustration. | 10. | _____ |
| 11. | I (been, have been) there often. | 11. | _____ |
| 12. | This sensitivity was something he had since (berth, birth). | 12. | _____ |
| 13. | (Being, Being that, Because) he was my friend, I tried to understand. | 13. | _____ |
| 14. | From inside, he ordered them to (take, bring) the boxes from the yard to him. | 14. | _____ |
| 15. | But he did say he would speak to no one (accept, except) me. | 15. | _____ |

EXERCISE B: *In each of the following sentences you must choose between two words. Fill in your choices in the blanks to the right.*

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-------|
| 1. | They were (dying, dyeing) to meet the star. | 1. | _____ |
| 2. | But he had already (desserted, deserted) the stage. | 2. | _____ |
| 3. | He regarded giving autographs as a (Capitol, capital) offense. | 3. | _____ |
| 4. | His printed comments were frequently (censored, censured). | 4. | _____ |
| 5. | That was, of (course, coarse), because they were pretty rough. | 5. | _____ |
| 6. | It was hoped he would receive his just (deserts, desserts). | 6. | _____ |
| 7. | But he usually refused to take anyone's (council, counsel). | 7. | _____ |
| 8. | He was (continually, continuously) getting into trouble. | 8. | _____ |
| 9. | Trouble never seemed to bother his (conscious, conscience). | 9. | _____ |
| 10. | He always had a rather (coarse, course) attitude. | 10. | _____ |

EXERCISE C: *In each of the following sentences you must choose between two words. Fill in your choices in the blanks at the right.*

1. We were pleased by the visit of the (eminent, imminent) doctor. 1. _____
2. He was known for his witty (epitaphs, epithets). 2. _____
3. This gave (impetuous, impetus) to my young brother to finish his homework. 3. _____
4. The doctor had (led, lead) a glamorous life. 4. _____
5. He pleaded with his parents to (leave, let) him make his own mistakes. 5. _____
6. We were just afraid that the (impetus, impetuous) kid would gossip. 6. _____
7. But I noticed that as the visit grew (eminent, imminent), the boy appeared to (loose, lose) his enthusiasm. 7. _____
8. At first I though this was a (faint, feint) to divert attention. 8. _____
9. But by the time the doctor arrived, the truth (laid, lied, lay) in another direction. 9. _____
10. During the visit, the kid was wrapped in an (envelope, envelop) of shyness. 10. _____

FREQUENTLY CONFUSED WORDS EXERCISE ANSWERS

EXERCISE A:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. accept | 9. number |
| 2. bazaar | 10. burst |
| 3. advice | 11. have been |
| 4. Bizarre | 12. birth |
| 5. advise | 13. Because |
| 6. aggravate | 14. take |
| 7. allusion | 15. except |
| 8. alter | |

EXERCISE B:

1. dying
2. deserted
3. capital
4. censored
5. course
6. deserts
7. counsel
8. continually
9. conscience
10. coarse

EXERCISE C:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. eminent | 2. epithets |
| 3. impetus | 4. led |
| 5. let | 6. impetuous |
| 7. imminent | 8. feint |
| 9. lay | 10. envelope |