

Partial Lists of Commonly Misspelled, Mispronounced and Confused Words and Expressions

Attention!!!! For definitions and pronunciation, consult www.Merriam-Webster.com

Commonly Mispronounced Words

*Please keep in mind that specific mispronunciations depend on the speaker's base language.
Different groups and individuals may have different needs and challenges*

Aunt - ant
Beer – bear – bare
Bed-bit- bead-bid
Criticism
Crow [crou]
Hat-head-hid-heed
Hunk - Hank (a name)
Necessary (not nekessary)
Owl [aul]

Put-pat-pet-pit-Pete
Small–smell- smile
Though - through

The following words change meaning and/or part of speech depending on stress. Typically, when first syllable is stressed, it is a noun, second is a verb.

Project, n – project, v
Object, n – object
Printout, n – print out, v

Frequently Misused and Confused Words

Accede – to agree
Exceed – to surpass



Accept – to receive (v)
Except – excluding (prep)

Affect – to influence (v)
Effect – to bring about (v), result (n)

Aide – help
Aide – staff member

All ready – prepared
Already – previously

Allusion – reference to
Illusion – false image
Delusion – false belief

Between – two involved
Among – more than two involved

Ascent – rise
Assent – consent

Climactic – pertaining to a climax
Climatic – pertaining to climate

College - colleague

Complement – complete
Compliment – praise

Complete, finish

Continual – repeated
Continuous – uninterrupted

Council – group (n)
Counsel – advice (n), to advise (v)

Disinterested – impartial
Uninterested – apathetic

Elicit – to draw out
Illicit – illegal

Emphasize – highlight



Empathize – appr. sympathize, feel the same

Emigrate – from a country

Immigrate – to a country

Ensure

Insure

Assure

Except vs Expect

Interested vs interesting

Fewer – numbers

Less – amount

Flaunt – to show off

Flout – to defy

Further – figurative distance

Farther – physical distance

Hard vs hardly

It's – contraction for it is

Its – possessive pronoun

Lie (lie down on a bed) and lay

Listen vs Hear

Loose – unattached

Lose – to suffer loss

Perquisite – privilege

Prerequisite – requirement

Precede – to go before

Proceed – to begin to continue

Presently – soon

At present – now

Principle vs Principal

Regretful



Regrettable

Require
Request

Rotate
Revolve

Raise
Rise

Rational vs Rational

Regardless
Irregardles (do not use this word, it does not in standard language)

Subject and object

Vocation (profession, occupation)
Vacation (holiday)

Commonly Misspelled Words

Accessory
Accidentally
Accommodate
Acknowledge
Ascend
Assess
Assignment
Auxiliary
Aunt
Bookkeeper
Benefit
Campaign
Changeable
Circumference (border, boundary)
Commitment
Condescend

Hair - Here - Hear

It's – contracted *it is* (It's easy)
Its – possessive pronoun (the notebook has a stain on its first page)



Pursue

Toe-Tow

Year

Confusing Expressions¹

Cal off – cancel

Carry on – continue

Come up with – produce

Do away with – abolish, put an end to, prohibit

Get along with – to friendly and productively coexist or work

Give back – return something

Fill in – substitute

Fill out – complete (a survey)

Make up for – compensate

Look up to – admire

Make up for - compensate

Put off – postpone

Put up with – tolerate

Run into – meet by chance

Stand by – remain loyal to

Touch up – repair

On hand

At hand

Upper hand

Check in

Check out

- **No strings attached** – no obligations, no commitments, free and clear
- **Straight from the horse's mouth** – from a reliable source
- **Hard to swallow** – hard to accept, to believe
- **Pay through the nose** – pay too high a price

- Get along - to be amiable
- Give up – to quit
- Put up – tolerate, endure
- Put down – judge someone negatively (to be bad)
- Check in – return (libr),
- Check out – 1. try, examine 2. borrow (libr) 3. leave (hotel industry)

¹ *Ameri\$peak* (most common words and phrases you need to know to communicate effectively in American business). Nara Venditti, Ph.D., *Succeed in America*, 2006



I work hard vs I work hardly ☺
Therapist vs Terrorist ☺
Neutering vs Nurturing ☺

Commonly Confused Prepositional Phrases

Interested in
Aware of
Criticism of
Speak to
Speak with
Speak about

For more information and resources, visit <http://succeedinamerica.com/articles.html> to peruse FREE articles on Business Communication, Diversity and Employability.

About Succeed in America: Succeed is a consulting firm that helps individuals and organizations with workplace-based communication, customer service, business English skills, career counseling, employability, cultural understanding, accent reduction and job search. We help diverse individuals succeed in the American workplace. We help organizations leverage diversity and increase productivity and the bottom line by providing programs and educational resources.

About Dr. Nara Venditti: Dr. Nara is the founder of Succeed in America, LLC. She is passionate about helping diverse professionals succeed in the workplace. She specializes in communication issues for in the cross-cultural environment. Author of over than 65 published works, she is the recipient of State of Connecticut Official Citation for her tireless dedication to making a difference in the community.

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