



## Commonly Misused Words

Even practiced English language users can struggle with correct word choice from time to time. The list below presents commonly misused words and how to use them properly.

Word	Usage	Example
Affect	Use as a verb.	Your actions affect other people.
Effect	Use as a noun.	The effects of bullying can be harmful.
Your	Use as a possessive adjective that modifies nouns.	I like your shoes!
You're	Use as a contraction of the two words "you" and "are."	You're annoying me.
Fewer	Use when something can be counted.	There are fewer police officers here.
Less	Use when something cannot be counted.	There is less crime in Denver.
To	Use as a preposition.	I'm going to San Antonio.
Too	Use as an adverb.	I'm too busy to attend.
Two	Use as a number.	I have two pens.
Who	Use as a subject pronoun; refer to the subject of the sentence. If you can replace the word with "he" or "she," use who.	Who is going to the party? He is going to the party.
Whom	Use as an object pronoun; refer to the object of a verb or preposition. If you can replace the word with "him" or "her," use whom.	With whom are you going to the party? I am going with him.

They're	Use as a contraction of the words "they" and "are."	They're not at the zoo.
Their	Use as a possessive pronoun.	Their lasagna smells delicious.
There	Use to refer to a place.	Set the book down over there.
Lie	Use when there is no direct object.	Lie down on the couch.
Lay	Use when there is a direct object.	Please lay the book down over there. In this case, "book" is the direct object.
Its	Use as a possessive pronoun.	The dog hurt its paw.
It's	Use as a contraction of "it is."	It's a nice day.
Or	Use to connect different possibilities.	Do you like ice cream or pizza?
Nor	Use after a set of negative possibilities preceded by neither.	He likes neither ice cream nor pizza.
Then	Use to indicate sequence.	I will go ice skating and then get a burrito.
Than	Use to make a comparison.	He is taller than I am.
Weather	Use to indicate the atmospheric conditions and temperature.	The weather is frightful outside with all this hail!
Whether	Use as a conjunction to introduce different possibilities.	Whether you win or lose, I am proud of you.

## Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](#). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!