



## 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.

<b>Affect</b>	Use as a verb (Your actions affect other people.)
<b>Effect</b>	Use as a noun (The effects of bullying can be harmful.)
<b>Your</b>	Possessive adjective that modifies nouns (I like your shoes!)
<b>You're</b>	Contraction of the two words "you" and "are" (You're annoying me.)
<b>Fewer</b>	Use when something can be counted (There are fewer police officers here.)
<b>Less</b>	Use when something cannot be counted (There is less crime in Denver.)
<b>To</b>	Use as a preposition (I'm going to San Antonio.)
<b>Too</b>	Use as an adverb (I'm too busy to attend.)
<b>Two</b>	Use as a number (I have two pens.)
<b>Who</b>	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.)
<b>Whom</b>	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.)
<b>They're</b>	Contraction of the words "they" and "are" (They're not at the zoo.)
<b>Their</b>	Possessive pronoun (Their lasagna smells delicious.)
<b>There</b>	Refers to place (Set the book down over there.)
<b>Lie</b>	Use when there is no direct object (Lie down on the couch.)
<b>Lay</b>	Use when there is a direct object (Please lay the book down over there. In this case, "book" is the direct object.)
<b>Its</b>	Possessive pronoun (The dog hurt its paw.)
<b>It's</b>	Contraction of "it is" (It's a nice day.)
<b>Or</b>	Use to connect different possibilities (Do you like ice cream or pizza?)
<b>Nor</b>	Commonly used after a set of negative possibilities preceded by neither (He likes neither ice cream nor pizza.)
<b>Then</b>	Use to indicate time (I will go ice skating and then get a burrito.)
<b>Than</b>	Use to make a comparison (He is taller than I am.)
<b>Weather</b>	Use to indicate the atmospheric conditions and temperature (The weather is frightful outside with all this hail!)
<b>Whether</b>	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](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!