

1. You should use appropriate word choice in formal writing and speaking. Be careful not to confuse words (i.e., accept and except) and do not use nonstandard words (i.e., hisself, might of, alot).
2. If you think you have some problems using some of these words in either speaking or writing, write the troublesome words onto a 4 x 6 inch notecard with the word on one side and the part of speech, meaning, and sample sentence on the other. Review your notecards periodically until you feel more comfortable using those words.
3. Finally, and most importantly, when editing your writing for mistakes, you should pay particular attention whenever you use the words from this list in your writing. Since you are a non-native speaker, it may be likely that you are not using the word correctly.

Before completing the self-study quiz questions, study the following list of words.

Commonly Confused Words			
Word	Part of Speech	Meaning	Sample Sentence
accept	verb	to receive	Since marrying Sheila, I have been accepted as part of her family.
except	verb	to exclude	Could you except that player from being a part of the team?
a	determiner	use before singular count nouns beginning with a consonant sound	She has a bicycle.
an	determiner	use before singular count nouns beginning with a vowel sound	She ate an apple.
alike	adverb	in the same manner possessing the same	They did their homework alike. John and Steve are

	adjective	or almost the same characteristics	alike.
unlike	preposition	not characteristic of or similar to	John is unlike Steve.
unlikely	adjective	improbable	In the unlikely event that there is an earthquake, you should get underneath your desk.
another	determiner	another + singular count noun	I want to read another book.
others	pronoun		There are others at the school who feel the same way you do.
the others	pronoun	the rest of the people of a particular group	You can go with Tom, Jane, and Mark. I will go to the party with the others.
other	adjective	being an addition	Are their other students who are also failing this class?
make	verb	create, construct	I made dinner yesterday.
do	verb	complete, perform	I have to do my homework today before going to the movies.

come	verb	to have as one's home or place of origin	A son who lives in the United States calls his mother in Japan and says, "I am coming home."
go	verb	to proceed to move away from a place	A friend who lives in the United States says to another friend who lives in the United States: " I am going to Japan."
because	adverb clause connector	by reason of	Because I am hungry, I am going to the store.
because of	preposition	by reason of	Because of my hunger, I am going to the store.
due to	preposition	by reason of	Due to my hunger, I am going to the store.
say	intransitive verb	to put into words	What did you say to your friend?
tell	transitive verb	to put into words	I will tell you how to lose weight over a five week period.
speak	intransitive verb	to express oneself in speech	I spoke to John on the phone yesterday.
too	adverb	to a degree that is unreasonable and inappropriate	The music is too loud.
enough	adverb	in or to a sufficient	It is cold enough

	adjective	degree being what is needed without being in excess	outside to snow. There is enough snow on the slopes to ski.
so	adverb	in the manner or to the degree indicated	It is so hot today.
many	adjective + plural count noun	consisting of a large, indefinite number	There were many car accidents after it rained.
much	adjective + uncount noun	consisting of a large, indefinite number	Psychology class gives much homework each week.
few	adjective + plural count noun	a small number of persons or things	Few students were sick from class today.
little	adjective + uncount noun	small in amount or size	There is little pollution in coastal cities.
able	adjective	having the ability to perform well	Helen is a very able doctor.
enable	verb	to give the means, ability, or opportunity to do something; to give authority to	The commander enabled his soldiers to fire at the enemy.
separate	verb	to set apart (one kind or type) from others	Inside this bag, you will find a lot of change. Could you separate the coins in terms of pennies, nickels, dimes, and

			quarters?
apart	adverb	into separate parts or pieces	John stands apart from other students since he got a perfect score on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT).
alive	adjective	having existence or life	The animals were still alive after the forest fire.
lively	adjective	possessing, exerting, or displaying energy	She is a lively person.
live	adjective	marked by or exhibiting life	It was a live deer even though it had been shot.
what	noun clause connector		I know what he said to Sally.
somewhat	adverb	to a considerable extent	She is somewhat lazy when it comes to turning in her writing assignments.
person	noun	a member of the human race (singular)	Only one person was absent from class last week.
people	noun	persons as an organized body	The people in the company want raises next month.
number	number (used with count nouns)	quantity	A number of businesses are shutting down due to

			the worsening economy
amount	noun (used with uncount nouns)	a number of quantity obtained as a result of addition	The amount of pollution in the air is staggering.
quantity	noun (used with uncount nouns)	an indefinite amount or extent	The quality is more important than the quantity of your writing.
aside	adverb	on to or to one side	Please put your bag aside for a moment. We need to check it for security precautions.
beside	preposition	at the side of	The book was placed beside the table.
besides	preposition	except for	Besides Tom, no one can eat the ice cream in the refrigerator.
bad	adjective	not pleasant or agreeable	They felt bad about their business going bankrupt.
badly	adverb	in an unexpected or undesirable fashion	Her head hurt badly after bumping it against the door.
between	preposition	used with two entities	The pizza was divided between the two students.
among	preposition	used with three or more entities	The pizza as divided among the students.

bring	verb	to transport an object toward you	Could you bring me a glass of water?
take	verb	to move an object away from you	Please take these financial reports to Mrs. Smith's desk.
can	verb	ability	Can you ride a unicycle?
may	verb	permission	May I borrow your motorcycle?
cite	verb	to quote as an authority or example	You should cite at least five articles to support ideas in your research paper.
site	noun	a particular place	There are many ESL Web Sites on the Internet.
climactic	adjective	of or constituting a climax, the point of greatest intensity in a series or progression of events	The climactic 1960s were defined by the assassinations of two great leaders: John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
climatic	adjective	referring to climate; meteorological conditions	The mountaineers suffered severe climatic conditions as they attempted to summit Mount Everest.
compare to	verb phrase	to represent as similar	She compared him to a wild tiger.
compare with	verb phrase	to examine how two	The study compared

		things are similar	students learning English in the classroom with students learning English in a conversational setting.
council	noun	a deliberative body	The tribal council met yesterday.
counsel	noun	advice	Offering counsel to his client, the lawyer recommended that they plea bargain the case.
different from	adjective phrase	not characteristic of or similar to (use this form usually)	Your sense of humor is vastly different from Susan's.
different than	adjective phrase	not characteristic of or similar to (use this form to avoid an awkward construction)	Please let me know if your educational goals are different than (to avoid using from what) they were last year.
effect	noun	result	The earthquake had devastating effects on Kobe, Japan.
affect	verb	to influence	That John had the flu affected his ability to compete in the tennis match.
everyone	indefinite pronoun	each and every person of a group	Everyone has finished the race.
every one	adjective and pronoun	each individual or thing in a particular	Every one of the stolen backpacks was

		group	found.
farther	adverb	to a considerable extent; usually used to describe distances	His house is located a little farther down this street.
further	adverb	suggests quantity or degree	The professor extended the exam time further than he should have.
good	adjective	having pleasant, desirable qualities	He felt good about his soccer game last night.
well	adverb	in a manner appropriate to expectation or custom	She did well on her TOEFL test this morning.
hanged	verb	having been executed	Convicted of three murders, he was hanged until he was dead.
hung	verb	having fastened or suspended something	She hung her clothes out to dry.
imply	verb	to convey an idea by indirect, subtle means	Through his frowns and crossed arms, Steven implied that he was upset about something.
infer	verb	to draw a conclusion from evidence or reasoning	Susan inferred that Steven was upset because of his frowns and crossed arms.
lead	noun	a type of metal	A lead baseball bat would be too heavy to

			swing.
led	verb	past tense form of the verb lead: to show the way	She led them on an expedition up the mountain.
learn	verb	to gain knowledge or mastery of by study	Finally, I learned how to speak English.
teach	verb	to impart knowledge and skill to	The instructor taught the students how to speak English.
leave	verb	to exit	Leave the building immediately.
let	verb	to permit	Let me drive you to the airport.
lie (lie, lay, lain)	intransitive verb	to rest by sleeping, lying quietly, or the like	Because I am so tired, I will lie down for a nap.
lay (lay, laid, laid)	transitive verb	to put or place	You can lay your jacket on the sofa.
like	preposition	similar to	Like Tom, Susan is from New Jersey.
maybe	adverb	possibly	Maybe I will pass the TOEFL test next week.
may be	verb phrase	of a possible but not certain occurrence	Next week may be the time we go on vacation.

passed	past tense of the verb pass	to move along a particular course	She passed her friend's house on her way to work.
past	preposition	on or to the farther or opposite side of	I live past the church on the right side of Pemberton Avenue.
precede	verb	to come before	My brother preceded me in getting his Bachelor's Degree at Syracuse University.
proceed	verb	to go in a forward direction	We proceeded up the trail head until we saw Whitney Portal campground.
principal	noun	head of a school or a large sum of money	The George Washington Elementary School principal has hired three more teachers.
principle	noun	basic truth or law	I have one principle by which I live my life: honesty.
raise	transitive verb	to move or cause to move upward	I raised the blinds in the living room.
rise	intransitive verb	to go up	Heat rises.
real	adjective	having actual reality	That was a real machine gun I just shot.
really	adverb	to a high degree	It was really hot when I went to Death

			Valley.
relation	noun	a connection between things	There is a relation between eating sugary foods and becoming fat.
relationship	noun	a connection between people	I have always had a good relationship with a father.
respectfully	adverb	with kindly regard and deference for others	Tommy always acts respectfully to his parents.
respectively	adverb	each in the order given	Susan and Bob are doctors, and Pat and Tom are lawyers, respectively.
set	transitive verb set, set, and set	to put or to place	She set the flowers on the table.
sit	intransitive verb sit, sat, and sat	to be seated	Please sit down.
than	conjunction used with comparisons	comparison	He is taller than his friend.
then	adverb	time	We laughed at first, and then we cried.
wait for	verb phrase	to be in readiness for or await	We are waiting for Jake to finish his shift, so we can all go to the movies

			together.
wait on	verb phrase	to serve	Currently, the waitress has three tables she is waiting on.
who	adjective clause connector	people	The man who is at the game used to play professional baseball.
which	adjective clause connector (often used in nonrestrictive clauses)	things	The Hewlett Packard computer, which is not working anymore, is still under warranty.
that	adjective clause connector (often used in restrictive clauses)	refers to things or a group or a class of people	I finally found the book that I lost last week.
who's	contraction	who is	Who's going to the party?
whose	possessive pronoun	possession	Whose bike is that?
your	possessive pronoun	possession	Are you going to wash your car?
you're	contraction	you are	You're going to get sick if they do not cook your meat thoroughly.