

Easily Confused Words

Mark a cross (X) to the incorrect sentence in each pair. Put the correct word in the blank.

Part of speech

Phonetic transcriptions for particularly confusing words

Definitions

1. resemble (v.) ensemble (n.)

Unit 1 Page 10

Resemble: to be similar to someone or something; **Ensemble:** a group of things or people acting or taken together as a whole

- A. This ceramic replica vase highly **ensembles** the original in Tang Dynasty. resembles
- B. The **ensemble** has been rehearsing for the charity concert for weeks. _____

2. breadth (n.) /bredθ/ breath (n.) /breθ/

Unit 2 Page 16

Breadth: the fact that something includes a wide range of different things or ideas;
Breath: the air that goes into and out of the lungs

- A. Crossing the finishing line, the red-faced athlete was short of **breadth**. breath
- B. Mariah Carey is remarkable for the **breadth** of her music. _____

3. concurrently (adv.) recurrently (adv.)

Unit 3 Page 20

Concurrently: at the same time; **Recurrently:** time after time

- A. She works part-time as a tutor and studies at university **recurrently**. concurrently
- B. Students who **recurrently** submit their homework late are given warnings. _____

4. latter (n.) /'læt.ə/ later (adj.) /'leɪ.tə/

Unit 5 Page 30

Latter: the second of two people, things, or groups previously mentioned; **Later:** happening at a time in the future, or after the time mentioned

- A. Both Spanish and French sound exotic, but the **later** sounds more sophisticated to my ear. latter
- B. I could catch a **later** bus if you want to chat for a while longer. _____

5. refrain (v.) abstain (v.)

Unit 6 Page 39

Refrain: to not do something that one wants to; **Abstain:** to not do something one enjoys, usually for the reasons of religion or health

- A. However unbearably itchy his rash was, he **refrained** from scratching the inflamed skin. _____
- B. The crowds were advised to **abstain** from gathering during the epidemic. refrain

6. cease (v.) /si:s/ seize (v.) /si:z/

Unit 13 Page 76

Cease: to stop something; **Seize:** to take something quickly and keep or hold it

- A. When the epidemic will **cease** remains uncertain. _____
- B. He **ceased** the opportunity to impress the hiring manager. seized

7. moderate (adj.) modulate (v.)

Unit 15 Page 86

Moderate: being within the mean or average size, amount, degree, or strength; **Modulate:** to change something, such as an action or a process, to make it more suitable for its situation

- A. Some people enhance muscle gain by **moderating** their protein intake. modulating
- B. Biscuits baked over **moderate** heat until golden and crispy taste best. _____

8. quench (v.) drench (v.)

Unit 16 Page 94

Quench: to satisfy a need or to relieve with water; **Drench:** to make someone or something soaked thoroughly

- A. The unexpected downpour **drenched** the fields of fruit and vegetables. _____
- B. A coke can really **drench** my thirst on such a boiling hot day. quench

9. frantic (adj.) frenetic (adj.)

Unit 18 Page 104

Frantic: almost out of control because of extreme emotion; **Frenetic:** involving a lot of excited movement or activity

- A. His **frenetic** hoarding of daily necessities proved him a selfish man. frantic
- B. Months of **frenetic** rehearsal have got her ready for optimal performance in her world tour. _____

10. delicate (adj.) dedicate (v.)

Unit 20 Page 115

Delicate: pleasant in a mild or subtle way; **Dedicate:** to commit to a goal with most of one's time and energy or to publicly give honour to a person

- A. On Mother's Day, children **dedicate** carnations to their mothers. _____
- B. The **dedicate** coffee art has offset its bland taste, attracting many to revisit the café. delicate

11. infinite (adj.) indefinite (adj.)

Unit 21 Page 123

Infinite: immeasurably intensive and beyond limits; **Indefinite:** not precise or without clear limits

- A. The construction workers declared an **infinite** strike over wage revision. indefinite
- B. The project has been postponed for an **indefinite** period due to infinite ad hoc meetings. _____

12. brunt (n.) blunt (adj.)

Unit 22 Page 128

Brunt: the main force of something unpleasant; **Blunt:** inclined to say what one thinks without trying to be polite

- A. Frontline medics are bearing the **brunt** of the epidemic. brunt
- B. People often mistake his **blunt** but constructive opinion for hostile criticism. _____