



# *Proof Your Writing I*

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Classroom



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## *Commonly Confused Words*



## Commonly Confused Words

### Accept vs. Except

To *accept* is to welcome or to admit.

The other pets soon *accepted* Freckles as a member of the family.

*Except* means “leaving out” or “excluding.”

Nobody *except* Natalie stayed for the tutoring session.

## Commonly Confused Words

Decide whether “accept” or “except” in each blank below?

The crowd was completely silent as the puck flew in a graceful arc into the net, winning the game for the Pelicans. The opposing team members’ faces registered shock; how could they accept this loss when they had been sure to win?

No hometown fans wanted to leave the arena that night, but the security guards gradually convinced people to go. By eleven o’clock, except for a few players lingering to savor the final moments of the night, the arena was finally empty.

The next day, at a ceremony honoring the winning team, the captain accepted the trophy on behalf of all the team members. He said that except for one mistake early in the first-quarter, his team had played nearly perfectly, and the audience cheered.

For weeks afterwards, local restaurants and movie theatres accepted tickets from the momentous games instead of cash. It was the happiest time the town could remember, except that it didn’t last forever.

## Commonly Confused Words

### Affect vs. Effect

The word *affect* is a verb that means “to influence.”

How does precipitation *affect* the weather?

The word *effect* is a noun that means “result” or “impact.”

The *effects* of the meeting were not clear right away.

## *Commonly Confused Words*

Decide whether “affect” or “effect” is a synonym for each word below.

1. to alter:     **affect**    

2. an outcome:     **effect**    

3. a change:     **effect**    

4. to influence:     **affect**

## Commonly Confused Words

### A lot vs. Alot

*Allot* is a word; it means “to measure out” or “to distribute.”

The community *allotted* five pounds of flour to each family.

*A lot* is not a word. Make sure you put a space between “a” and “lot.”

I can think of *a lot* of reasons to stay away from that lake.

## Commonly Confused Words

Fill in each box in the following passage with “a lot” or “allot.”

In her will, the wealthy woman left some money to her family members, but she also decided to allot some tasks to them. First, she asked her nephew to take care of her flowers, making sure they got a lot of water and sunlight. She wanted her grandson to check on a neighbor who was ill—this didn't seem like allot to ask. And finally, she asked me to a lot a few minutes each day to playing her piano and making sure it was in tune.