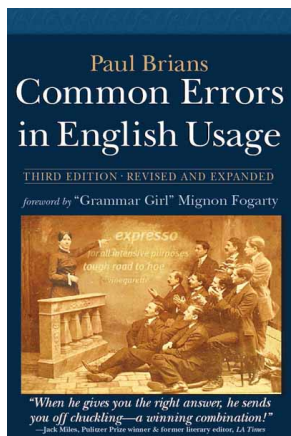


Common Errors in English Usage



- [Read about the book version of this site.](#)

The expanded and revised third edition is now available.

- [Click here for the text-only version of this site \(for people who want to read through all this material as if it were a book\).](#) If you want a fully formatted ebook version, [there's one available for the Kindle](#) and an [iBook](#) version.
- [Read an entry a day on the Common Errors in English Facebook page.](#)
- [Read the daily entry on Twitter.](#)
- [The blog for Common Errors in English Usage](#)
- [Common Errors in English Usage daily calendar—](#)
- [NEW: Common Errors in English Usage Podcast](#)
- [Preparing to review or recommend this site? Please read this first.](#)
- [Public presentations by Paul Briens](#)
- [Back to Common Errors home page.](#)
- [Paul Briens' home page.](#)

Use the search form below to find words and phrases on this site.

[About this Search Engine](#)

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z

100s	360 degrees	a / an	A.D.	A
ala	AM / PM	abject	able to	
about	absorbtion	abstruse / obtuse	academia	
acapella, a capella	accede / exceed	accent marks	access	
accessory	accept / except	accidently	accurate / precise	
acronyms and apostrophes	acrossed	actionable / doable	actual fact / actually	
adapt / adopt	ad / add	ad nauseum	addicting	
admission / admittance	added bonus	administer / minister	administrate	
adverse / averse	adopted / adoptive	adultry	advance / advanced	
aesthetic / ascetic	advice / advise	adviser / advisor	advocate for	
	affect / effect	affluence / effluence	Afghan / Afghani	

African-American	afterall	afterwards / afterwords	agnostic / atheist
agreeance / agreement	ahold / hold	aid / aide	ain't
aisle / isle	all	all and all	all be it
all for not	all goes well / augurs well	all of the sudden	all the farther
alls	allude / elude	alleged, allegedly	alliterate / illiterate
allusive / elusive / illusive	almost	allude / refer	allusion / illusion
altar / alter	aloud / allowed	along the same vein	alot
altho, tho	alterior	already / all ready	alright
ambivalent / indifferent	alumnus / alumni	alternate / alternative	altogether / all together
analogous	American	amature	ambiguous / ambivalent
anecdote / antidote	amount / number	amongst / among	amoral / immoral
antihero	ancestor	amptheater	an / and
anyone / any one	angel / angle	and also	and / or
anywheres	anxious / eager	anteclimax	another words
appauled	anytime	any more	any other number
Arab / Arabic / Arabian	apart / a part	anyways	anywhere
as	appose / oppose	apiece / a piece	apostrophes
as less as possible	architected	appraise / apprise	apropos / appropriate
as time progressed	arthuritis	around / about	arrant / errant
ashamed / a shame	as best as	artic	artisanal / artesian
assure / ensure / insure	as of yet	as far as	as follow
at all	ascared	as per	as such
attain / obtain	asocial	ascent / assent	ascribe / subscribe
autobiography / biography	asterick	aspect / respect	assess
ax	ATM machine	astrology / astronomy	aswell
	attribute / contribute	athlete	athiest
	avaidable	aural / oral	auger / augur
	away / a way	avenge / revenge	avocation / vocation
	axel / axle	awe, shucks	awhile / a while
back / forward / up in time	backseat / back seat	backslash / slash	backup / back up
	backward / backwards	backyard / back yard	bad
bail / bale	bailout / bail out	baited breath	baldfaced, boldfaced
ball / bawl	barb wire, bob wire	BAR-B-Q, barbeque	bare / bear
barter / haggle	base		

B

based around, based off of	basically	basises	bazaar / bizarre
began / begun	beat / bead	beaurocracy	beckon call
being that	begs belief	begs the question	behaviors
bemuse	belief / believe	belief toward	below table
beyond the pail	benefactor / beneficiary	beside / besides	better
bit / bitten	bias / biased	between	between you and I
block / bloc	biweekly / semiweekly	bible	bicep
boarders / borders	blog / post	blatant	blindsighted / blindsided
bonafied	blonde / blond	blunt / brunt	
born / borne	boast your confidence	bologna / baloney	bon a petite
both	bonds / bounds	boost in the arm	bored of
bounce / bounds	born out of	borrow / loan	borrow off
brainchild	both / each	bought / brought	boughten
breach / breech	bourgeois	bouyant	bow
bring / take	brake / break	brand names	brang, brung
brunt / butt	breakup / break up	breath / breathe	breeches
bully pulpit	Britain / Briton	broach / brooch	broke / broken
buttload	brussel sprout	build off of	bullion / bouillon
	bumrush	but . . . however	butt naked
	buttox	by / 'bye / buy	by far and away

cacao / cocoa	cache / cachet	caddy-corner	call the question
callous / callused	calm, cool, and collective	Calvary / cavalry	can goods
canon / cannon	can't . . . too	Canadian geese	cannot / can not
capital / capitol	caramel / carmel	canvas / canvass	capeesh
carousal / carousel	Catch 22	carat / caret / carrot / karat	careen / career
CD-ROM disk	ceasar	caught / caught	caring
cement / concrete	censor / censure / sensor / censer	cease the day / seize the day	Caucasian
chai tea	chaise longue	center around	celibate / chaste
chauvinist	Check	cents	celtic
		chalk-full	center of attraction
		chemicals	ceremonial / ceremonious
			Champaign / Champagne
			Chicano / Latino / Hispanic

C

chock it up	chrispy	chose / choose	chuck / chunk
Church	chute/shoot	cite / site / sight	clamor / clamber
classic / classical	cleanup / clean up	clench / clinch	cliché / clichéd
click / clique	climactic / climatic	close / clothes	close proximity
closed-minded	coarse / course	coat strings	coffee clutch
coiffeur / coiffure	cold slaw	coliseum / Colosseum	collaborate / corroborate
collage / college	collective plural	Colombia / Columbia	Colorado
colons / semicolons	coma / comma	come with	commas
company names with apostrophes	compare and contrast	compare to / compare with	complement / compliment
complementary / complimentary	comprised of	consensus	concerning
confusionism	concerted effort	confident / confidant / confidante	conflicted / conflicting feelings
conservativism	congradulations	connote / denote	conscience, conscious, consciousness
coronate	contaminates / contaminants	continual / continuous	contrary / contrast
could care less	core / corps / corpse	contrasts / contrasts with	conversate
couple / couple of	could give a damn	cowered / coward	copywrite / copyright
crape/crepe	cowtow	could of / should of / would of	costumer / customer
crevice / crevasse	credible / credulous	Crackerjacks	council / counsel / consul
critique / criticize	crick / creek	creeped / crept	crafts
cue / queue	crochet / crotchet / crotchety	criteria / criterion	crescendo / climax
cut and dry	croissant	crucifixion	criticism
	currant / current	curve your appetite	crowbar / wrecking bar
	cut and paste / copy and paste	cut of tea	crucifix / cross
			cursing through veins
dairy / diary	damped / dampened	damp squid	dangling and misplaced modifiers
daring-do	data	dateline / deadline	day in age
daylight savings time	de rigueur	deal	dealed
death nail	debrief	decent / descent / dissent	deceptively
deep-seeded	defence	definate	decimate
defuse / diffuse			deformation / defamation

D

degrade / denigrate / downgrade	degree names demure / demur	deja vu denied of	democrat / democratic depends
depravation / deprivation	depreciate / deprecate desert / dessert	desirable / desirous deviant / deviate	derisory / derisive device / devise
devote/devout	dew / do / doo / due	dialogue / discuss	dieties
differ / vary	different than	differently abled, physically challenged	digestive track dilemma / difficulty
dike / dyke	dire straights	directions	disasterous
disburse / disperse	disc / disk	disconcerning	discreet / discrete
discretion is the better part of valor	discussed / disgust digression	disease names disinterested / uninterested	disembark the vessel dispose / dispose of disremember
disrespect	dissemble / disassemble	divide by half do respect	dogma, doctrine do's and don'ts
doctorial / doctoral	doesn't supposed to	dolly / handcart	dominate / dominant
done / did	don't / doesn't	donut	double negatives
double possessive	doubt that / doubt whether / doubt if	doubtlessly / doubtless	douse/dowse
downfall / drawback	download / upload	dove / dived	dozed / dosed
drastic / dramatic	dredge / drudge / trudge	dozen of drier / dryer	drank / drunk dribble / drivel
drug / dragged	dual / duel	drips and drabs	drive / disk
duly / dully	dyeing / dying	duck tape	due to the fact that
e.g. / i.e.	each	early adapter	earmarks / hallmark
earth, moon	easedrop	ecology / environment	economic / economical
ecstatic	ect.	-ed / -t	edge on
eek / eke	efforting	ei / ie	either / or, neither / nor
either are / either is	eighteen hundreds / nineteenth century	electrocute elicit / illicit	elegy / eulogy ellipses
email	embaress	emergent / emergency	emigrate / immigrate
eminent / imminent / immanent	empathy / sympathy end result	emphasize on enamored by	emulate / imitate endemic / epidemic
engine / motor	English / British	enjoy to	enormity / enormousness
enquire / inquire	ensuite	ensure / insure	enthuse

E

entomology / etymology	envelop / envelope epic / epoch	envious / jealous epicenter	enviroment epigram / epigraph / epitaph / epithet
epitomy -er / -est	eponymous error / err	equally as -es	equivocate / equal espouse / expound / expand
et al.	-eth	ethics / morals / morale	ethnic ever so often
every everytime	every since evidence to	everyday evoke	everyone / every one exact same
exalt / exult	exasperate / exacerbate	escape / escape	exception proves the rule
exceptional / exceptionable	excrable exited/excited	execute on exorcise / exercise	exhilation expatriot
expecially expressed / express	expensive, cheap expresso	explicitly, implicitly expresses that / says that	exponential extend / extent extended, extensive
extract revenge	exulted / exalted		
F			
factoid	fair / fare	faithful / fateful	far be it for me
farther / further faze / phase	fastly fearful / fearsome	fatal / fateful Febuary	faun / fawn Federal (<i>capitalization</i>)
feelings for / feelings about	feint / faint 50's	fellow classmate fiance / fiancée	female / woman film
finalize	fine toothcomb	firey	first annual
first floor / ground floor	firstable fits to a tee	fiscal / physical fittest	fit the bill fixing
flair / flare	flak / flack	flaunt / flout	flesh out / flush out
floe/flow	floppy disk / hard disk	flounder / founder	fluke
flustrated, fustrated	flys	focus around	followup
font / typeface	foot / feet	footnotes / endnotes	for
for / fore / four	for all intensive purposes	for free for goodness' sakes	gaff / gaffe for one / for one thing
for sale / on sale	for sell	for sure / sure	forbidding / foreboding / formidable
forceful / forcible / forced	forego / forgo formally / formerly	foresee / forsee forward / forwards	forever / for ever fortuitous / fortunate

foul / fowl	fourty	fowl swoop	framework / groundwork
Frankenstein	frankly	French dip with au jus	freshman / freshmen
from . . . to	from the beginning of time	fully well -fuls / -ful	fulsome full proof / foolproof
functionality	furl / furrow	fushia	

GP practice	gaff / gaffe	gamut / gauntlet	gander / dander	G
gardener snake / garter snake	garnish / garner genius	gauge / gouge gender	gaurd genuine	
gerunds & pronouns	get me	Ghandi	gibe / jibe / jive	
gift / give	gig / jig	gild / guild	goal / gaol	
goal / objective	god	goes	going forward	
gone / went	gonna	good / well	good-by / good-bye / goodby /goodbye	
got / gotten	got to	government	graduate	
graffiti	grammer	grasping for straws	gratis / gratuitous	
gray / grey	greatful	grevious	grill / grille	
grill cheese	grisly / grizzly	group (singular vs. plural)	ground zero grow	
guess who?	gull / gall	gut-rending/heart- wrenching	gyp	

had ought	hadn't have	hail / hale	hairbrained	H
hand and hand	handicap / disability	hangar / hanger	hanged / hung	
hanging indents	Hanukkah, Chanukah	Happy Belated Birthday	hardly hardly never	
hardy / hearty	hark / hearken	hay day	HIV virus	
he don't	heading / bound	heal / heel	hear / here	
hearing-impaired	heavily	heighth	help the problem	
hence why	herbs / spices	here's / here are	hero / protagonist	
heroin / heroine	hew and cry	highbred / hybrid	highly looked upon / highly regarded	
him, her / he, she	Hindi / Hindu	hippie / hippy	his and her's	
hissself	historic / historical	an historic	hit and miss	
hoi polloi	hoard / horde	hock / hawk	hold your peace / say your piece	
hole / whole	holocaust	homophobic	home page	

hone in	hors d'oeuvres	how to	humanism / humanist
humanity	humus / hummus	hundreds / century	hyperdermic
hyphenation	hyphens & dashes	hypocritical	hysterical / hilarious

I me myself	-ic	ice tea	idea / ideal
idle / idol	if / whether	if not	if I was / if I were
ignorant	Illinois	immaculate conception / virgin birth	impact impactful
impassible / impassable	impeach	impertinent / irrelevant	imply / infer
in spite of / despite	in memorial	in regards to	in route
in the fact that	in store	in tact	in terms of
incidences / incidents / instances	in the mist	incase	incent, incentivize
	incidently	includes	incredible
	incredulous / incredible	indepth	Indian / Native American
indite / indict	individual	infact	infamous / notorious
infinite	inflammable	influencial	-ing
ink pen	in mass	input	in route
in shambles	in spite of / despite	insight / incite	install / instill
instances / instants	insundry	intend on	intense / intensive
intensifiers	intercession	interesting	interment / internment
Internet / intranet	interface	intergrate	intermural / intramural / extramural
interpretate	into / in to	intricate / integral	intrigue
invested interest	invite / invitation	Iraq	ironically
irregardless	is, is	islams	isn't it, innit
Israelite / Israeli	Isreal	issues	itch / scratch
it's / its			

jack / plug	jam / jamb	jerry-built / jury-rigged	Jew / Hebrew
Jew / Jewish	jewelry	job titles	John Henry
John Hopkins	joint possessives	judgement	junta
just	just assume	just so happens	jutebox

key	kick-start	killed after	kindly
kindergarden	knots per hour	koala bear	

I

J

K

l / l	l / ll	LCD Display	laissez-faire	L
lama / llama	land lover	languish / luxuriate	large	
last name / family name	late / former	later / latter	laundry mat	
leach / leech	lay / lie	layed/laid	laxadaisical/lackadaisical	
legend / myth	lead / led	least / lest	leave / let	
less painless	lense	lentil / lintel	less / fewer	
liable, libel	lessen / lesson	let alone	lets / let's	
light-year	liaise	library	licence / license	
like for	lighted / lit	lightening / lightning	like	
lip-sing	likeliness / likeness	likker	lion's share	
literature	listserv	"lite" spelling	literally	
loath / loathe	little own	little to none	lived	
long story short	login	logon	lol	
lot, plenty, load (number)	lookit	loose / lose	loser / looser	
	lozenger	lustful / lusty	luxuriant / luxurious	
	-ly adjectives			

MAC / Mac	macabre	maddening crowd	magic bullet / silver bullet	M
majority are / majority is	majorly	make due	make pretend	
marital / martial	mantle / mantel	manufacture	marinate on	
mass	marshall	marshmellow	mash potatoes	
maybe / may be	masseuse / masseur	material / materiel	may / might	
meantime / meanwhile	me either	mean / median	mean for	
meet up	medal / metal / meddle / mettle	media	Medieval Ages	
	methodology / method	mediocre	medium / median	
mfr. / mfg.	memorium	memorium	meteor / meterorite / meteoroid	
might could	mic	midrift	middleaged	
mind of information	might has well	might ought	militate / mitigate	
minuet / minute	miner / minor	miniscule	minority	
mislead / misled	minus	minus well	mischievious	
mixed-up media	misnomer	mispell	misplaced stress	
Mongoloid	molten/melted	momentarily	money is no option	
more importantly	mono e mono	moral / morale	morays	
	more / most	moreso	most always	

motherload	motion / move	Mount Fujiyama	much differently
muchly	mucus / mucous	multipart names	multiply by double
mumble jumbo, mumbo jumble	music / singing	must of	mute point
	myriad of	myself	

n'	name, pronoun	nauseated / nauseous	naval / navel
near	neck in neck	needs -ed / -ing	neice
Nevada	nevermind	new lease of life	next, this
next store	nicety / niceness	nickle	nieve
niggard	ninty	nip it in the butt	no sooner when
no such a thing	Noble Prize	none	nonplussed
noone	not	not all	not all that
not hardly	notate / note	nothing (singular)	notorious
now and days	nowheres	nuclear	number of verb
numbers	numerous of	nuptual	

N

O / zero	object d'art	obsolescent / obsolete	octopi
odd	oeuvre	of	of ___'s
ofcourse	offense	offline	oft chance / off chance
often	oggle	oh / o	OK
Old English	old fashion	old-timer's disease	old wise tale
on accident	on the contraire	on the lamb	on the same token
on tomorrow	once	once and a while	one of the (singular)
one-dimensional	one in the same	one of the only	ones / one's
ongoingly	online / on line / in line	only	onto / on to
op-ed	open	opportunist	oppose to
oppress / repress	oral / verbal	orders of magnitude	ordinance / ordnance
Oregon	organic	oriental	orientate
ostensively	ourn	outcast/outcaste	over and out
over-exaggerated	oversee / overlook	overtake / take over	owness

O

PC computer	PSS	page / site	pair (number)
pair / pare / pear	palate / palette / pallet	par excellance	parallel
parallelled / paralleled	parallelism in a series	paralyzation	parameters / perimeters

P

paramount / tantamount	paranoid	parentheses	parliament
past time	partake / participate	passed / past	pass the muster
pause for concern	pastorial	passive voice	patience / patients
peak / peek / pique	pawn off / palm off	payed / paid	peace / piece
pedal to the medal	peal out / peel out	peasant / pheasant	pedal / peddle
	pen / pin	penultimate / next to last	peoples
			per
percent, per cent	percent decrease	percipitation	peripheral
pernickety / persnickety	perogative / prerogative	perpetrate / perpetuate	persay
personality	perspective / prospective	persecute / prosecute	personal / personnel
		peruse	perverse / perverted
		phantom / fathom	phenomena / phenomenon
Philippines / Filipinos	phoney / phony	phrasal verbs vs. nouns	physical
pianist	picaresque / picturesque	pickup / pick up	picture
		pigeon English	PIN number
pinned up	pit in my stomach	pith and vinegar	plain / plane
plays a factor	playwrite	plead innocent	pleaded / pleated
please RSVP	plug-in	plus / add	podium / lectern
poinsetta	poisonous / venomous	point being is that	point in time
point of you	pole / poll	pompom / pompon	poo-poo
populace / populous	pore / pour	possessed of, by, with	prosperity / posterity
practicable/practical	practice / practise	practicle	pray / prey
precede / proceed	precedence / precedents	precipitate / precipitous	precurse
			predominant / predominate
predominately	preemptory	preferably	prejudice / prejudiced
pre-Madonna	premier / premiere	premise / premises	prepone
prepositions (repeated)	prepositions (wrong)	prescribe / proscribe	present writer
presently	prespiration	pretty	primer
primevil	principal / principle	prioritize	priority
proactive	probably	prodigy, progeny, protégé	program/programme
			proof is in the pudding
problematic	prone	pronounciation	prophecy / prophesy
prostate / prostrate	protagonist / proponent	protray	proved / proven
psychologist / psychiatrist / psychotherapist / psychoanalyst	pundint	purposely / purposefully	

Q / G

queue
quote

RBI's

raise / raze

rapport

rationale /
rationalization

realize / realise

reason because

rediculous

refrain / restrain

regime / regimen /
regiment

reluctant / reticent

replete / complete

request / ask

respiratory

retch / wretch

revert / reply

rhetorical questions

right of passage

ripe with / rife with

rod iron, rot iron

romantic

rubbage

rye / wry

sacred / scared

sail / sale / sell

samwich / sandwich

say / tell

quantum leap

the quick and the dead

quotation marks

RPMs

rampart / rampant

rate of speed

ravaging / ravishing /
ravenous

realms of possibility

rebellng / revolting

redo it over

refridgerator

regretfully / regrettably

religion

remotely close

reply back

resign / re-sign

respond back

reticent / hesitant

revert back

ridged/rigid

ring its neck

risky / risqué

role / roll

rondezvous

Rueben

sacreligious

salsa sauce

sang / sung

scarcely

quay / cay / key

quick claim

racism

ran / run

ratio

recreate

readably

realtor

rebut / refute

redundancies

refute / reject

reign / rein

religion believes

remuneration /
renumeration

report into

resignate

restauranter

retrospective /
retroactive

revolve / rotate

riffle / rifle

ringer / wringer

road to hoe

rollover / roll over

root / rout / route

ruff

scramble eggs

same difference

sarcastic / ironic

sceptic / skeptic

question / ask

quiet / quite

rack / wrack

random

rational / rationale

reactionary / reactive

real / really

reap what you sew

recent / resent

reeking havoc

regard / regards

reknown

religiosity

reoccurring

repel / repulse

repungent

resister / resistor

restive

return back

revelant

revue / review

right / rite / write

Rio Grande River

rob / steal

Romainian

rouge / rogue

rural

safety deposit box

sameo sameo

satellite

schizophrenic

Q

R

S

sci-fi	scone / sconce	Scotch	scotch free
scrapegoat	sea change	seam / seem	seasonable / seasonal / unseasonable / unseasonal
second of all	seen / saw	segway	select / selected
self-steam	self-worth	sense / since	sense of false hope
sensual / sensuous	sentence fragments	sergeant of arms	service / serve
set / sit	setup / set up	shall / will	shan't / shall not
shear / sheer	sheath / sheaf	sherbert	shimmy / shinny
shined / shone	shoe-in	shone / shown	shook / shaken
should / would	shoulder on / soldier on	show-stopper	shrunk / shrank
Sierra Nevada Mountains	signaled out	shutter to think	sick / sic
skiddish	single quotes	silicon / silicone	simplistic
sluff off	slight of hand	Sir / Dame	sister-in-laws
soar / sore	snuck	slog it out	slow gin
sole / soul	social / societal	so / very	so fun
sometimes not always	somebody / someone	socialize	sojourn / journey
song / work or composition	someways	somebody's else	sometime / some time
soup du jour of the day	sooner	somewhat of a	somewheres
spaces after a period	sort of	sooner than later	sort after
spare of the moment	sour grapes	sorta speak	sound byte
spicket	spaces in names	souse chef	sowcow
spree	speak / talk	spaded / spayed	span
stain glass	spiritualism	specially / especially	specie / species
states / countries	squash / quash	spoke / said	sprain / strain
steak / stake	stalactites / stalagmites	squoze	staid / stayed
stock and trade	stationary / stationery	stand / stance	standalone
straddled with / saddled with	step foot	statue of limitations	staunch/stanch
strength	stoled	stereo	stint / stent
striped / stripped	straight / strait	stomp	stood / stayed
substitute with	stress on	straightened / straitened	straightjacket
suit / suite	strong suite	stricken / struck	straight-laced
suped up	succeed / secede	subject to / subjected to	strike a cord
	sulking / skulking	suffer with	submittal / submission
	supercede	summary / summery	substance-free
			sufficeth
			summersault

supposably, supposingly, supposively	suppose to suspect / suspicious swam / swum	supremist suspicion / suspect systematic / systemic	surplus neckline surfing the Internet
--	---	---	--

table	tad bit	take a different tact	take and
taken back / taken aback	tape, record taunt / taut / tout	tattle-tail tempera / tempura	taught / taut tenant / tenet
tender hooks	tentative	than / then	thanks God
thankyou	that / than	that / which	that kind
teeth	themselves	them	theory
there's	their's	they're / their / there	therefor / therefore
these are them	these kind	these ones	they / their (singular)
think on	this here/that there	though / thought / through	threw / through throne / thrown
through a mirror, darkly	throws of passion tick / tic	thusfar timber / timbre	thusly time period
times / multiply	times smaller	tirimisù	today's day and age
to / too / two	to home	to the manor born	to where
today's modern society	toe-headed	toe a fine line	tolled / told
tooken / took / taken	touche	tounge	tongue and cheek
torchiere	tore / torn	torturous / tortuous	touch bases
tow the line	toward / towards	track home	tradegey
tragedy / travesty	transition	translucent / transparent / opaque	tremblor tripple
trite and true	troop / troupe	trustee/trusty	try and
turn into/turn in to	tussled / tousled	two to tangle	

T

UFO	ugly American	The Ukraine	unchartered / uncharted
unconscience	under the guise that	undermind	under weigh
underestimated	underlining	undo / undue	undoubtedly
University of Indiana	unkept	unpleased	unlike
unrest	unthaw	untracked	upmost
upto	urine analysis	us / we	use / usage
use to	used to could	utilize	

U

vague reference	vain / vane / vein	valance	vapid / vacuous
various	vary / very	veil of tears	vendor
veracious / voracious	verbage	verb tense	verse / play against
verses / versus	very sort of, very kind of	very unique	vice-like / vise-like
		vice / vise	vicious / viscous circle / cycle
video	vinegarette	vintage point	virii
vichyssoise	visually impaired / blind	vitae	viola / voila
		volumptuous	

V

wail / whale	wait on	wake	waver / waiver
walk the talk	wander / wonder	want that . . . should	warmonger
warrantee / warranty	wary / weary / leery	was / were	wash
wax	way	ways	weak / week
weather / wether / whether	weather forecast calls for	weiner	wench / winch
		Wednesday	went / gone
we're / were	were / where	wet your appetite	whacky / wacky
what	wheat	wheelbarrel	whenever / when
where (and prepositions)	whereabouts are	where it's at	wherefore
	whether / whether or not	whilst / while	whim and a prayer
		whimp	whip cream
whisky / whiskey	who / that	who / whom	who's / whose
a whole 'nother	whole-hardily	whose-ever	wile away
-wise	wit / whit	within / among	woman / women
wonderkind	wont / won't	working progress	World Wide Web
worse comes to worse	worser	would have	wrangle / wangle
wrapped / rapt	wreath / wreaths / wreath / wreathes	wreckless	write me
		writing	

W

Xmas / Christmas

X

ya'll	ye	yea / yeah / yay	year end and year out
ying and yang	yoke / yolk	you	you better

Y

you can't have your cake and eat it too	you know / know what I'm sayin'?	you was	your / you
		your guys's	yourself
your / you're	youse	you've got another thing coming	

zeroscape

zero-sum gain

zoology

Z

A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z



Supplementary Pages

- [The home page for this site.](#) If you missed it, please start here.
- [Non-Errors](#) Those usages people keep telling you are wrong but which are actually standard in English.

split infinitives * ending a sentence with a preposition * beginning a sentence with a conjunction * between vs. among * over vs. more than * gender vs. sex * who vs. that * since vs. because * hopefully * momentarily * lend vs. loan * near miss * none (singular vs. plural) * scan vs. skim * off of * gotten vs. got * till' vs. 'til * teenage vs. teenaged * reference vs. cite * endquote vs. unquote * feeling bad * persuade vs. convince * You shouldn't pronounce the "e" in "not my forte." * normalcy vs. normality * aggravate vs. irritate * preventive vs. preventative * entitled vs. titled * People are healthy; vegetables are healthful. * Dinner is done; people are finished. * Crops are raised; children are reared. * "You've got mail" should be "you have mail." * it's "cut the muster," not "cut the mustard." * it's "carrot on a stick," not "carrot or stick." * spitting image * "Lion's share" means all of something, not the larger part of something. * connoisseur

- [More errors](#) Other strange and amusing word confusions
- [Commonly misspelled words.](#)
- [The whole site on one page](#) (ASCII text; the easiest option if you're reading through all the entries in order)
- [List of commonly made suggestions.](#) Check this before writing.
- Sean Igo's "[Garbage In, Garbage Out: Errors Caused by Over-Reliance on Spelling Checkers](#)"

Other Good Resources

- [American Heritage Book of English Usage](#) (now out of print but used copies are available cheap)
- [AskOxford](#): An excellent dictionary with many other resources on British English.
- [Worldwide Words: Michael Quinion investigating International English from a British Viewpoint](#)
- Daniel Kies' [Modern English Grammar](#)

- [Jack Lynch's Grammar and Style Notes](#)
- [Dr. NAD's Prig Page Grammarist](#) A commercial site with ads and links to products, but offering many useful free resources dealing with usage and style.
- [Ronald B. Standler's Technical Writing Guide](#)
- [Garbl's Writing Resources On-Line](#)
- [UsingEnglish.com](#): useful resources for those studying English as a second language
- [English as a Second Language Help Desk at Washington State University](#)
- [WWWebster Dictionary](#) (Merriam Webster) provides recorded pronunciations
- [Grammar Girl's Quick & Dirty Tips for Better Writing](#) Detailed discussion of individual points.
- [Heteronyms](#)
- [Antonyms](#)
- [Differences between British, Canadian and American Spelling](#)
- [William Safire's self-violating "Rules for Writers"](#)
- [The Eggcorn Database](#) Great collection of misheard words and phrases.
- [Crash Blossoms](#) Bungled headlines
- [Demi-Entendres](#) Mixed-up expressions
- [The Word Detective](#) interesting essays on word origins
- [Geoffrey K. Pullum: 50 Years of Stupid Grammar Advice](#) (an interesting critique of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*).
- [Reviews of *Common Errors in English Usage*](#)

[Paul Brians' home page](#)