# Writing Centre

# Commonly Misused Words

| Word | Description |
| --- | --- |
| Accept | To receive |
| Except | To exclude |
| Affect | To alter or change |
| Effect | The result of change |
| Alternately | Repeating after another |
| Alternatively | Alternative, various options |
| Assure | To guarantee |
| Ensure | To make sure |
| Insure | Referring to insurance |
| Compliment | To give praise |
| Complement | Goes well with something else |
| Counsel | Guidance/advice |
| Council | Assembly e.g. Student Council |
| Desert | Dry, sandy place |
| Dessert | Course following dinner |
| Farther | Refers to distance |
| Further | Means more |
| Immigrate | Enter a country |
| Emigrate | Leave a country |
| Its | Possessive e.g. its wheels |
| It’s | It is |
| No | Opposite of yes |
| Know | Something known/learned |
| Principal | Head of school; also sum of money |
| Principle | E.g. moral principles |
| Sight | Something you see |
| Site | Place/location |
| Cite | Quote |
| Then | What comes next |
| Than | Used for comparisons |
| There | Place/location |
| Their | Possessive/belonging to them |
| They’re | They are |
| To | Preposition describing a relationship to something |
| Two | The number 2 |
| Too | Also, or excess e.g. Too many |
| Weather | E.g. rain, snow, sunny etc. |
| Whether | Either/or |
| Who’s | Who is? |
| Whose | Possessive question |
| Your | Possessive/belonging to you |
| You’re | You are |

**Resources:**

[noslang.com](http://www.noslang.com/spelling.php)

http://www.noslang.com/spelling.php

[wsuonline.weber.edu](http://wsuonline.weber.edu/wrh/words.htm)

http://wsuonline.weber.edu/wrh/words.htm

[squidoo.com](http://www.squidoo.com/misused-words)

http://www.squidoo.com/misused-words

[suite101.com](http://www.suite101.com/content/commonly-misused-words-a102043)

http://www.suite101.com/content/commonly-misused-words-a102043