## Confusing words

### Words

1. **ACCESS / EXCESS**
2. **AMONG / BETWEEN**
3. **AS / LIKE**
4. **BASE / BASS**
5. **BARE / BEAR / BEER**
6. **BEGIN / START**
7. **BOARD / BORED**
8. **BRAKE / BREAK**
9. **CARE / MIND / MATTER**
10. **CHECK / CHEQUE**
11. **DEAR / DEER**
12. **DIE / DYE**
13. **DROP / FALL / SPILL**
14. **EXPECT / HOPE**
15. **FOOD / FOOT**
16. **HEAR / LISTEN**
17. **HE’S / HIS**
18. **HEAL / HEEL / HE’LL**
19. **HEAR / HERE**
20. **HOLE / WHOLE**
21. **HOUR / OUR**
22. **KNOW / NOW / NO**
23. **MAJOR / MAYOR**
24. **MAY BE / MAYBE**
25. **NECESSARY / NECESSITY**
26. **OTHER / OTHERS / THE OTHER / ANOTHER**
27. **PLAIN / PLANE**
28. **READ / RED**
29. **RECEIPT / RECIPE**
30. **RIGHT / RITE / WRITE**
31. **ROAD / RODE / ROWED**
32. **SENSE / SENSES**
33. **SPEAK / TALK**
34. **SUITE / SUIT / SWEET**
35. **THEIRS / THERE’S**
36. **THOROUGH / THREW / THROUGH**
37. **WAIST / WASTE**
38. **WANDER / WONDER**
39. **WERE / WHERE / WE’RE**
40. **WHICH / WITCH**
Choose the correct word from the following pairs:

1. **ACCESS / EXCESS**
   1. Senior students have __________ to the library at weekends.
   2. An __________ of enthusiasm is not always a good thing.
   3. Hackers had complete __________ to the company files.
   4. They both eat to __________.

2. **AMONG / BETWEEN**
   1. I saw something lying __________ the wheels of the bus.
   2. We found a little house hidden __________ the trees.
   3. He shared his property __________ his wife, his daughter, and his sister.
   4. How can you find anything __________ all these papers!.

3. **AS / LIKE**
   1. Her hair was so soft it was just _______ silk.
   2. Strong leaders, _______ Winston Churchill, are few and far between.
   3. He worked for a long time _______ a teacher in Africa.
   4. It could be used _______ evidence against him.

4. **BASE / BASS**
   1. One of the lieutenants of the army __________ liked to play __________ guitar.
   2. At the __________ of the cliff was a rocky beach.
   3. The fisherman hauled an enormous __________ out of the river with his bare hands.
   4. I accused him of having _________ motives.

5. **BARE / BEAR / BEER**
   1. Last night, I dreamt of a huge brown _________ drinking ________.
   2. The silhouette of the _________ tree on the hill was clear against the winter sky.
   3. Don’t give up! If you _________ down with all your strength, you’ll win.
   4. After a hard day’s work I enjoy a _________ or two.
   5. The chair, too fragile to _________ her weight, collapsed.
   6. They rely on credit cards even to cover the _________ necessities such as rent and emergency medical treatment.

6. **BEGIN / START**
   1. The book was very technical and I couldn't __________ to understand what it was about.
   2. It __________ off well, but I soon got bored.
   3. Losing the contract was the __________ of the end of his career.
   4. My car wouldn't __________ this morning, so I had to come by bus.
7. BOARD / BORED
1. He was really ________ with playing the same ________ games all the time.
2. When you went to school were you a day student or did you ________?
3. He ________ the dog out when he goes on business trips.
4. I pretended to listen, but I was ________ to death.
5. As soon as I was on _______, I began to have second thoughts about leaving.

8. BRAKE / BREAK
1. You’re supposed to put the hand ________ on whenever you stop on a hill.
2. You’d better stop driving and take a _________. You look tired and ________ nonstop.
3. I need to ________ these shoes in before we run next week.
4. The cyclist didn’t use his ________ in time, causing his bicycle to ________ when it hit the wall.

9. CARE / MIND / MATTER
1. It doesn’t ________ if you can’t be here by 8 o’clock. We can start without you and you can join us later.
2. I really don’t ________ what happens- I’m sick to death of it all.
3. Would you ________ if I opened the window?
4. Do you ________ to join us for dinner?
5. What really ________ is how hard you try.
6. I don’t ________ having a dog in the house so long as it’s clean.

10. CHECK / CHEQUE
1. Is Mr. Smith still at the hotel? No, he ________ out this morning.
2. I don’t have any cash on me, so could I pay by ________?
3. Please make your ________ payable to The Brighter Toyshop Ltd.
4. After finished the exam, I ________ my answers for mistakes.

11. DEAR / DEER
1. This car is very ________. I can’t afford to buy it.
2. A ________ have been seen in the area. But I haven’t seen it yet.
3. Oh _________! Here we go again!
4. Her most ________ memory of their vacation was getting to see some ________ in the forest.

12. DIE / DYE
1. She thought her dog would ________ after it had drunk that bowl of blue ________.
2. I get grey! I think I’ll ________ my hair from now on.
3. After harvest, the hop plants ________ back.
4. I used to wrong ________ form my painting. It’s to ________ for!
13. DROP / FALL / SPILL
1. You have ________ some wine on the tablecloth. I hope I’ll get the stain out!
2. Susie ________ her sunglasses into the fountain.
3. I was in such a hurry that I ________ down the stairs and broke my leg.
4. It’s no use crying over ________ milk.
5. John, could you give me a lift and ________ me at the bus station, please?
6. Poor Kathe ________ flat on her face in the mud.

14. EXPECT / HOPE
1. I ________ it won’t rain this evening. We’re going out for a late walk.
2. We ________ that the guest house would have much better rooms.
3. He hasn’t received his test mark yet, but he ________ he will do well.
4. He is a wise young man. Do you ________ him to change his mind?

15. FOOD / FOOT
1. There was a lot of ________ at the party.
2. Are you going by bicycle or on ________?
3. Thank you for your suggestion - it gave us a lot of ________ for thought.
4. They built a house at the ________ of a cliff.

16. HEAR / LISTEN
1. Be careful- I’ve ________ a number of strange things about them.
2. I told him about it, but he never ________ to me.
3. OK, this is important, so please ________ carefully.
4. She was talking very quietly; did you ________ what she just said?

17. HE’S / HIS
1. ________ got some money but not much.
2. The thief lift ________ fingerprints on the glass.
3. ________ fellow colleagues could no longer put up with these lies of ________.
4. ________ a dentist. And ________ wife is a doctor.

18. HEAL / HEEL / HE’LL
1. If he goes to the doctor, ________ quickly ________.
2. A broken heart takes a long time to ________.
3. She turned on her ________ and went back to her room.
4. ________ have to stay in the hospital for a bit longer to let his ________ ________.

19. HEAR / HERE
1. ________ me out and then tell me what you think of the plan.
2. I can’t ________ the music _________. Can you turn it up, please?
3. There were a few books ________ and there, but apart from that the room was quite bare.
4. Come over ________ so that you can ________ what I have to say.
20. HOLE / WHOLE
1. She ate the _______ donut, _______ and all.
2. I need it like a _______ in the head.
3. There’s a _______ in my bucket. That’s why it isn’t _______.
4. I was sick yesterday. But now I feel a _______ lot better.
5. The _______ in his sock was so bad that the _______ of his big toe was sticking out.

21. HOUR / OUR
1. My plumber charges £20 an _______.
2. They met _______ principal. _______ principal spoke to them for an _______.
3. We went to a picnic. We all took _______ lunch boxes with us.
4. It took us an _______ to get back to _______ home.

22. KNOW / NOW / NO
1. You should _______ by _______ how to make a cake.
2. I’ve got _______ money and _______ problems.
3. _______ you’re here I will show you.
4. The parents didn’t _______ why their toddler kept saying “_______” to everything.

23. MAJOR / MAYOR
1. His father was a _________ in the Scots Guard.
2. He became the first directly elected _________ of London in 2001.
3. Citrus fruits are a _________ source of vitamin C.
4. What is your _________, English or French?

24. MAY BE / MAYBE
1. He _______ forty, but he is acting like a child.
2. Where is Julie? I don’t know. _______ she’s in the dining room.
3. This _______ the last match that he plays for Barcelona.
4. I think _______ I ought to go round there and apologize for what I said.

25. NECESSARY / NECESSITY
1. Just do what’s _________ and then leave.
2. You can come early if you want, but there’s no _________.
3. We brought only the bare _________ with us.
4. Was it really _________ for you to say that?

26. OTHER / OTHERS / THE OTHER / ANOTHER
1. We don’t need those books, we need _______ ones.
2. The investigation will take _______ two weeks.
3. Some children learn quickly but _______ children need more time.
4. Please give me _______ chance. I promise to try harder.
5. 80% of the students arrive on time. The _______ are always late.
6. You’ve already had an ice-cream. You can’t have _______ one.
27. PLAIN / PLANE
1. Look, the ________ is flying over the ________.
2. His work is on a complete different ________ of other writers.
3. The economic cabin of the ________ looked ________.
4. It’s quite ________ that they don’t want to speak to us.

28. READ / RED
1. I ________ in the advertisement that the ________ shoes I wanted were on sale.
2. ________ is the first colour of the rainbow.
3. The boy enjoyed the book he ________ that had a ________ cover.
4. She ________ his lips across the busy conference hall - “Time to go.”

29. RECEIPT / RECIPE
1. If you’ve got your ________, you can usually exchange the goods.
2. You need a can of tuna for this ________.
3. Goods will be delivered on ________ of payment.
4. For real South Asian food, just follow these ________.

30. RIGHT / RITE / WRITE
1. You have to go through an initiation ________ before you become a full member.
2. The journalist decided that it was the ________ thing to ________ and publish the article.
3. The exam wasn’t difficult. I’ve got the most answers ________.
4. You’re ________. I should ________ the last chapter differently.
5. The earth is sacred, and no ploughing or sowing or reaping can take place without some religious ________.
6. I had to ________ down the message on a slip of paper.

31. ROAD / RODE / ROWED
1. The doctor says she’s on the ________ to recovery.
2. He ________ back on his comments the following day.
3. Some of the travellers walked on the ________, some ________ on horses and the rest ________ a boat.
4. After two days on the ________, they reached the coast.
5. She ________ to the airport by taxi and asked the taxi driver to take the fastest ________.
6. Last week it was the first time I ________ a horse.
7. She ________ the boat down the waterway, her anger slowly subsiding.

32. SENSE / SENSES
1. That’s a silly comment! Have you lost your ________?
2. The words you’ve written don’t make ________.
3. It’s difficult to understand the ________ of that sentence.
4. It’s about time you came to your _________ and began to behave reasonably.
5. He has a good _________ of humour.

33. SPEAK / TALK
1. She _________ several languages.
2. He has been _________ about the new film for over an hour.
3. There’s a serious problem - I think we should _________.
4. He had a sore throat, so he was unable to _________.

34. SUIT / SUITE / SWEET
1. The city lifestyle seems to _________ her - she looks great.
2. We’re having a new bathroom _________ fitted at the weekend.
3. It was really _________ of the hotel to upgrade the married couple to the honeymoon _________ for free.
4. I won’t buy this __________. I don’t like the colour. All right, _________ yourself!
5. She was enjoying the _________ smell of success.

35. THEIRS / THERE’S
1. I think she’s a relation of _________.
2. _________ a time and a place for everything.
3. That’s not my friends’ house. _________ has got a red front door.
4. _________ never been such an exciting election as this.

36. THOROUGH / THREW / THROUGH
1. They did a _________ search of the area but found nothing.
2. He _________ the baseball right _________ his neighbour’s front window.
3. Peter went _________ a lot of pain after the accident.
4. I didn’t have much time, so I quickly _________ a meal together.
5. My sweater is _________ at the elbows.
6. Professional tests provide more _________ and accurate information and recommendations.

37. WAIST / WASTE
1. His _________ continued to grow and grow, but no food was allowed to _________ I his house.
2. It’s not worth while. I don’t _________ breath on that!
3. She worries too much about her _________ line.
4. As the dieter’s _________ got smaller, all his old clothes went to _________.
5. Reading English is not a _________ of time.

38. WANDER / WONDER
1. I don’t _________ she burst into tears after the way you spoke to her.
2. Halfway through the meeting, my mind started to _________.
3. My aunt says that eating an apple every day can do ___________ for your health.
4. I lost my cat. I ___________ where it is now. Probably ___________ing the streets.

39. WERE / WHERE / WE’RE
1. ___________ are we now? ___________ on Maple Street.
2. We ___________ too tired to go out yesterday. But today ___________ going to the cinema.
3. I’ve left my keys some ___________ and I don’t know ___________.
4. We ___________ lucky. We won the first prize.

40. WHICH / WITCH
1. ___________ of these painting do you like best?
2. Dorothy didn’t know ___________ direction to go in order to get to the good ___________.
3. Trees of ___________ the leaves are bright green are often leafless in winter.
4. I don’t believe a ___________ doctor can cure people using magic.
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