



## CONFUSED WORDS

IT'S easy to confuse words and therefore misuse them.

Here are some common mistakes:

**Accept/except** – accept means to agree to take something; except means not including. I always accept good advice except on Sunday.

**Affect/effect** – affect (verb) means to influence something; effect (noun) is the result or outcome. Affect is an action. Effect is an end result. The water affected the surface of the soccer pitch. The effect was that the game had to be cancelled.

**Amount/number** – amount is used with nouns that are not countable, such as an amount of glue; number is used with countable nouns, such as a number of houses.

**Complement/compliment** – a complement is something that adds to, supplements or completes; a compliment is an expression of esteem, respect, affection or admiration. I complimented her on her beautiful earrings which complemented her dress perfectly.

**Fewer/less** – if you can count the items use the number word fewer; if you can't use the word less. You should spend less time complaining about having fewer toys.

**Premier/premiere** – premier (adjective) means first in rank or importance; premier (noun) refers to a head of a state, province or territory; premiere (noun) refers to the first performance of a play or film; premiere as a verb means to give a first public performance. The premier of Tasmania attended the premiere of Geoffrey Rush's new film.

**Principal/principle** – principal is a noun meaning a sum of money or the head of an organisation; principle is a noun meaning a basic truth or law. The principal taught us many important life principles.

## TAUTOLOGIES

A **TAUTOLOGY** is the needless repetition of an idea usually in words. Expressing the same idea in different words not only wastes words but also can annoy the reader.

Here are some examples of tautologies: absolutely essential, accumulate more, big in size, completely full, cooperate together, utter perfection, equal halves, other alternatives, definite proof, end product, entirely eliminate, final destination, first originated, general public.

## WORLD OF WORDS

WHETHER they are spoken or written, words are powerful. They carry meaning that enables us to express ideas and emotions or provide information and news. Words, regardless of the language they represent, play a very important role in communication and without them we would be at a loss to understand the world around us. Join us as we discover more about the wonderful world of words.

### WEIRD WORDS

Here are some words and their meanings you can add to your vocabulary.

- ▶ blatherskite - A noisy talker of blatant rubbish; foolish talk or nonsense.
- ▶ deepoperit - worn out
- ▶ ergophobia - a fear of work
- ▶ foofaraw - fuss about nothing
- ▶ rigmarole - a lengthy and complicated procedure
- ▶ vease - a run before a leap

## BOOK READ

READING can help develop a good vocabulary. If you have a large stock of words you can choose the most effective ones to communicate your message.

Author John Flanagan has recently had a thrilling new adventure series published by Random House that will certainly introduce you to a new realm of wonderful words.

In Skandia there is only one way to become a warrior: complete your brotherband training.

Brotherbands are teams of boys who compete against each

other in seaman-ship, weapons and battle tactics. When Hal Mikkelson finds

himself the leader of a brotherband made up of outcasts, he must step up to the challenge. The Heron brotherband might not have the strength and numbers of the other teams, but with courage on their side, they might just surprise everyone.



## BLOOPERS

INCORRECTLY used spelling and grammar can change the meaning of what you write. Here are a few examples of this. Can you work out what they should say?

- ▶ I turned my project into my teacher.
- ▶ My father sold his shop in Perth which he designed and built.
- ▶ After rotting in the fridge for weeks, my mother took out the fruit.
- ▶ The swimming team won 21 out of the 34 races and brought home 12 gold medals.
- ▶ You maybe gone but not forgotten.
- ▶ Advanced notice. Road works to commence November 25.
- ▶ Buy now. Collect later. When its gone its gone!
- ▶ Bob's Dry Cleaning. We do altercations.
- ▶ We are committed to reducing plastic bag reduction.

## GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

"WHY should I have to bother with grammar and spelling?"

Spelling and grammar are the basic building blocks for when we want to construct what we want to say. If we all go our own way with spelling and grammar, eventually we will all be speaking and writing unintelligibly.

The reality is you can't get away with grammatical errors and spelling mistakes if you want to be taken seriously.

Try reading something with endless spelling mistakes and incorrectly used apostrophes, parts of speech, punctuation, and see how slowly you read it.

Good use of spelling and grammar is vital and prevents ambiguity.

### TIPS on WRITING

- ▶ When you have written something, have a re-read and then re-read it to make sure it says what you want to say in the way you want it to be said.
- ▶ Get someone else to look at it. A fresh pair of eyes might help pick up some errors.
- ▶ Read it out loud. It is a very effective way to check things. When you say things out loud, the grammar comes out more and you will be able to hear where the grammar and/or punctuation need improvement.

**NEXT WEEK: What's News – 2011 Headlines**

