

Commonly Confused Words

Part 3



When do you use ‘advice’, ‘advices’, and ‘advise’? If you don’t care about the difference, does that make you disinterested or uninterested?

Read our simple illustrated explanations of 10 pairs of words people often muddle up.

- Adverse/averse
- Advice/advise
- Bare/bear
- Disinformation/misinformation
- Disinterested/uninterested
- Draft/draught
- Every day/everyday
- Licence/license
- Role/roll
- Stationary/stationery

If you haven’t seen Commonly Confused Words Parts 1 and 2, don’t miss out!

[Download parts 1 and 2](#)

Adverse/averse

Adverse



Use 'adverse' when you mean 'unfavourable'.

The contractors could not build the factory on time because of adverse weather.

Patients on this medication can suffer adverse effects like nausea.

Averse



Use 'averse' when you mean 'against' or 'strongly dislike'.

Many people are averse to speaking in public.

The board rejected our recommendation because they were averse to risk.

Advice/advise

Advice



Use 'advice' with a 'C' when you mean 'guidance'. Used this way, 'advice' is uncountable, so you can't have 'advices'.

Sam gives good advice, so I usually do what she says.

In finance, 'advice' means a 'transaction notice'. Used this way, 'advice' is countable, and you can have 'advices'.

Companies sometimes send remittance advices when they pay suppliers' invoices.

Advise



Use 'advise' with an 'S' when you mean 'give guidance to'. You're describing an action.

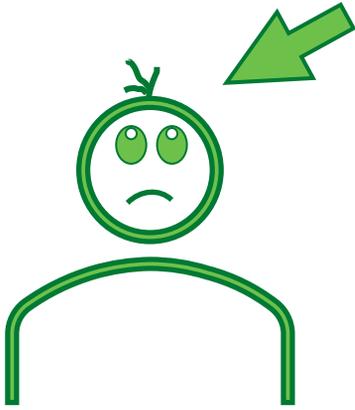
Doctors advise patients to lead a healthy lifestyle.

'Advise' can also mean 'formally tell'.

The police officer advised the suspect of their rights.

Bare/Bear

Bare



Use 'bare' when you mean 'uncovered'.

The gardener is careful never to mow the lawn in bare feet.

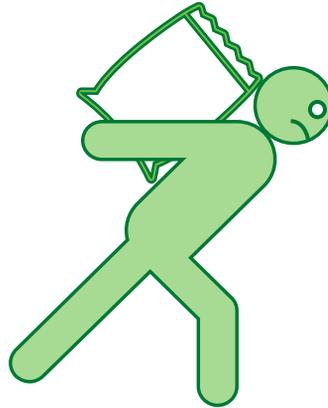
'Bare' can also mean 'empty'.

The office was bare after the company moved out.

And 'bare' can mean 'basic'.

The charity tries to make sure that people have at least the bare essentials.

Bear



Use 'bear' when you mean 'carry'.

When someone is new to a job, colleagues often bear a heavier load, helping where they can and showing the person what to do.

'Bear' can refer to large furry mammals.

Grizzly bears and polar bears live in different parts of the world.

Disinformation/ misinformation

Disinformation



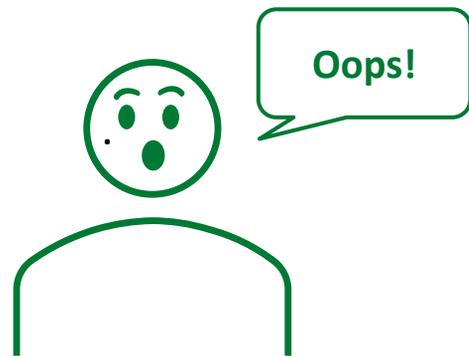
Use 'disinformation' when you mean 'false information that is intended to deceive'.

'Disinformation' starts with 'D', just like 'deliberate' and 'deceive'.

Disinformation is intentionally wrong and can be harmful.

Deliberately misleading conspiracy theories and propaganda are types of disinformation.

Misinformation



Use 'misinformation' when you mean 'false information that is not intended to deceive'.

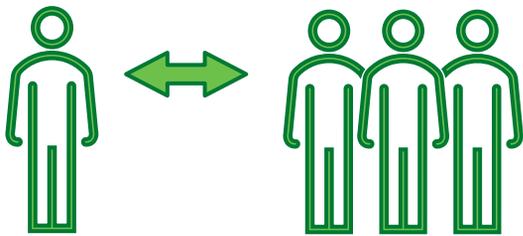
'Misinformation' starts with 'MIS', just like 'mistake'.

If you share information you're unsure of, be careful that you're not spreading misinformation.

Rumours that are unintentionally wrong are a type of misinformation.

Disinterested/ uninterested

Disinterested



Uninterested



Use 'disinterested' when you mean 'unbiased'.

She has a lot at stake — can her advice really be impartial and disinterested?

The researchers are seen to be credible and disinterested because they rejected funding from lobby groups.

Use 'uninterested' when you mean 'not interested'.

Except for one uninterested person, board members were keen to learn more about our proposal.

When voting, it can be hard to decide between candidates. Who genuinely wants to make a difference? Who is uninterested and only in it for the money?

Draft/draught

Draft



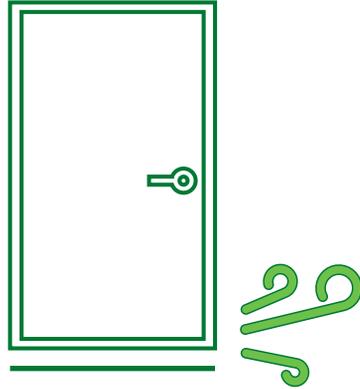
Use 'draft' when you mean 'not final'.

If you're reviewing a draft document, check if the writer wants you to correct spelling and grammar.

You could also use 'draft' when you mean 'preparing a document'.

I'm drafting the business case now, so please send me the figures as soon as possible.

Draught



Use 'draught' when you mean 'cold air blowing into a room'.

Everyone wore a sweater because of the draught from under the door.

It can also mean 'beer or cider from a barrel or tank'.

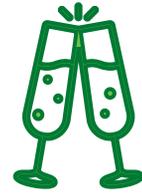
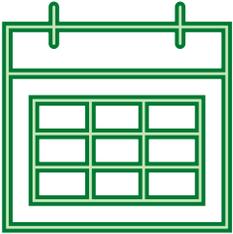
Draught beer is beer that is 'on tap'.

US English uses 'draft' for all meanings of the word. It does not use 'draught'.

Every day/everyday

Every day

Everyday



Everyday

Not everyday

Use 'every day' (two words) when you mean 'daily'.

The engineer checked the machine's performance every day during the trial.

He doesn't come to the office every day. He works from home twice a week.

Use 'everyday' (one word) when you mean 'ordinary'.

The machine is so old and unreliable that breakdowns are an everyday occurrence.

Coffee has become an everyday drink.

Licence/license

Licence



Use 'licence' with a 'C' when you mean 'certificate' or 'permit'.

You need a licence to run a food business.

'Licence' can also mean 'freedom'.

A loophole in the law gave some people licence to do what they liked.

License



Use 'license' with an 'S' when you mean 'authorise'.

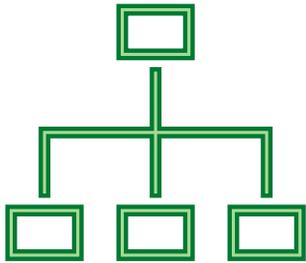
The council licensed him as an inspector.

Our company licenses people to sell on our behalf.

US English uses 'license' for all meanings of the word. It does not use 'licence'.

Role/roll

Role

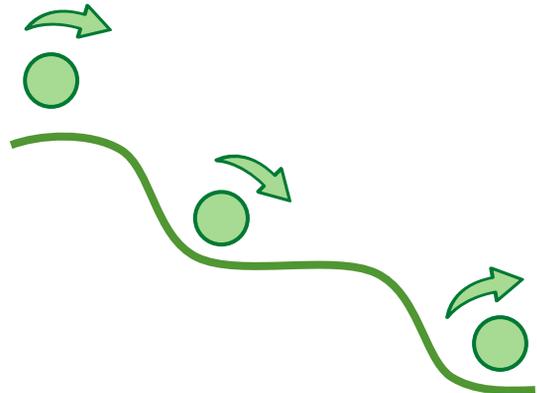


Use 'role' with 'LE' when you mean 'position'.

Authority to approve payments and hire staff belongs to a role, not to a person. If someone resigns, they no longer have that authority.

While Helen was away, Jane took on the role of team leader.

Roll



Use 'roll' with two 'L's when you mean 'turn'.

Because of their high centre of gravity, four-wheel drive vehicles can roll over and cause serious accidents when the vehicles are off road.

'Roll' can also mean 'cylinder'.

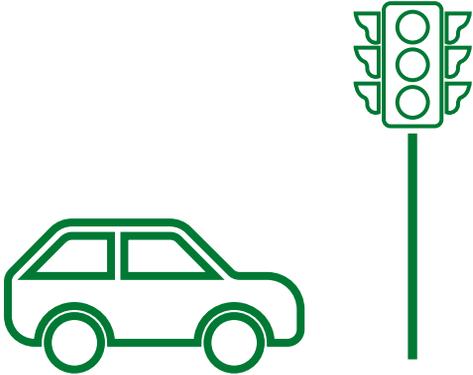
The carpet layer will calculate how many rolls of carpet the room needs.

And 'roll' can mean 'register'.

You must be on the Electoral Roll to vote.

Stationary/stationery

Stationary



Use 'stationary' with an 'A' when you mean 'not moving'.

'Stationary' is spelt with an 'A', a letter with two feet firmly planted so it doesn't move.

The delivery will be late because the driver is stuck in stationary traffic.

Prices are almost stationary when inflation is near zero.

Stationery



Use 'stationery' with an 'E' when you mean 'writing materials'.

He tried to keep within the stationery budget by paying for paper himself.

Our stationery cupboard is such a mess that I can't find any pens.