Homophones are words that are pronounced alike but that have different spellings and meanings, such as course and coarse. The following list consists of homophones and other pairs of words that are frequently misused.

n. = noun  pro. = pronoun  contr. = contraction  conj. = conjunction
v. = verb  adj. = adjective  prep. = preposition  poss. = possessive
adv. = adverb  pl. = plural  sing. = singular

accept:  (v.) to receive
except:  (prep.) not included
access:  (n.) a way of approach or entrance
access:  (v.) to gain entrance
assess:  (v.) to estimate the value of
adapt:  (v.) to adjust to a situation
adopt:  (v.) to take in or take a course of action
advice:  (n.) counsel, information, or suggestions given
advise:  (v.) to give advice
affect:  (v.) to influence or have an effect on (most common use)
affect:  (n.) emotional status (a specialized use in psychology)
effect:  (n.) the result of an action (most common use)
effect:  (v.) to accomplish or execute
aisle:  (n.) a corridor or passageway
I'll:  (contr.) I will
isle:  (n.) an island
all ready:  (n. + adj.) everyone/everything is prepared
already:  (adv.) at or before this time; previously
all right:  (n + adj) everything is okay
alright:  NOT AN ACCEPTED WORD
all together:  (n. + adj.) all in one place
altogether:  (adv.) completely, wholly
allude:  (v.) to refer to
elude:  (v.) to evade or escape
allusion:  (n.) a reference
illusion:  (n.) a false impression
aloud: (adv.) audibly or loudly
allowed: (v.) permitted
altar: (n.) an elevated place for religious services
alter: (v.) to change
always: (adv.) constantly; all the time
all ways: (adj. + n.) in every way
anecdote: (n.) a little story
antidote: (n.) something that counteracts poison
angel: (n.) a heavenly being
angle: (n.) a figure formed by the divergence of two straight lines from one point
arc: (n.) a part of a circle
arch: (n.) a curved part of a building
ascend: (v.) to rise, climb, or go up
ascent: (n.) a movement upward
assent: (n.) agreement
assent: (v.) to agree
assistance: (n.) help given
assistants: (n. pl.) helpers
band: (n.) a group; a belt
band: (v.) to form into a group
banned: (v.) excluded or prohibited
bare: (adj) uncovered, naked
bare: (v.) to make naked, to expose
bear: (v.) to carry, endure, support
bear: (n.) large, furry mammal
beside: (prep.) by the side of
besides: (adv. and prep.) in addition to
boar: (n.) a male hog
bore: (v.) to drill into; to mentally tire someone
bore: (n.) someone who is mentally tiring
boarder: (n.) one who pays for room and meals
border: (n.) a boundary
born: (v.) given birth to (always in the passive voice)
borne: (v.) carried, supported (always in the passive voice)
brake: (n.) a mechanism to stop a vehicle
break: (v.) to cause to fall into two or more pieces
breath: (n.) air inhaled and exhaled
breathe: (v.) to inhale and exhale
cavalry: (n.) a military company on horseback.
Calvary: (n.) the biblical hill on which Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.
canvas: (n.) a kind of coarse cloth
canvass: (v.) to search or survey
capital: (n.) wealth, assets for investment
capital: (n.) a city that is a seat of government; stock
capital: (adj.) excellent, top or foremost; punishable by death
capitol: (n.) a building occupied by a legislature
censer: (n.) a container for burning incense
censor: (v.) to prohibit publication
censor: (n.) one who prohibits publication
censure: (v.) to reprimand or disapprove of
censure: (n.) disapproval
choose: (v.) to select (present tense)
chose: (v.) selected (past tense)
chosen: (v.) selected (past participle)
cite: (v.) to quote; to charge with breaking a law
sight: (n.) something seen; the sense of seeing; a device for aiming a weapon
sight: (v.) to look at or aim at
site: (n.) a location
coarse: (adj.) rough; undefined
course: (n.) school subject; path or way
complement: (n.) items which complete
complement: (v.) to complete
compliment: (n.) a statement of praise
compliment: (v.) to praise
conscience: (n.) what tells you right from wrong
conscious: (adj.) awake or alert
council: (n.) a group that deliberates
counsel: (v.) to advise
counsel: (n.) advice given
councillor: (n.) one who is a member of a council
counselor: (n.) one who gives advice
descend: (v.) to move downward
descent: (n.) a going down
dissent: (v.) to disagree
dissent: (n.) disagreement
desert: (n.) a geographical area
desert: (v.) to abandon
dessert: (n.) food, usually sweet
device: (n.) a contrivance
devise: (v.) to prepare a method or contrivance
do: (v.) to perform
due: (adj.) used with Ato@ to specify the cause of some thing; owing
dual: (adj.) twofold
duel: (n.) a fight between two people
elicit: (v.) to bring out, usually a response
illicit: (n.) not allowed
eminent: (adj.) famous
imminent: (adj.) likely to occur soon
envelop: (v.) to cover or enclose
envelope: (n.) an enclosure used for mailing
extent: (adj.) still existing
formally: (adv.) in a formal manner
formerly: (adv.) at an earlier time
forth: (adv., prep.) forward; onward; out
fourth: (n.; adj.) the one after the third
human: (adj.) pertaining to people
humane: (adj.) pertaining to compassion or kindness
its: (poss. pro.) belonging to it
it’s: (contr.) it is; it has
later: (adj.) after a specified time
latter: (n.) the last one mentioned
lead: (v.; pronounced leed) to conduct
lead: (n.; pronounced led) the metal
led: (v.) past tense and past participle of lead
loose: (adj.) not tight
loose: (v.) to release
lose: (v.) to misplace; to be defeated
marital: (adj.) pertaining to marriage
martial: (adj) pertaining to war
maybe: (adv.) perhaps
may be: (v.) possibly may occur
meant: (v.) past tense and past participle of mean
ment: NOT A WORD
passed: (v.) past tense and past participle of pass
past: (n.) an earlier time
patience: (n. sing.) calm endurance
patients: (n. pl.) those under medical care
peace: (n.) not war
piece: (n.) a portion
personal: (adj) pertaining to oneself
personnel: (n.) the employees of a company or organization
principal: (n.) head of a school; money owned
principal: (adj.) chief; most important
principle: (n.) a rule or doctrine
prophecy: (n.) a prediction
prophesy: (v.) to make a prediction
quiet: (adj.) not noisy
quite: (adv.) completely
right: (adj.) correct, not left
write: (v.) to inscribe
sense: (n.) ability to think well; meaning; perception
sense: (v.) to perceive
since: (prep. and conj.) from that time until now; because
stationary: (adj.) in a fixed position
stationery: (n.) paper to write on
than: (conj.) used to compare things
then: (adv.) indicating time
their: (poss. pro.) belonging to them
there: (adv.) in that place; also used as an expletive to begin sentences
they're: (contr.) they are
to: (prep.) generally indicating direction
too: (adv.) excessively; also
two: (n. and adj.) the number
trail: (n.) a rough path
trial: (n.) experimental action; examination before a court
trial: (adj.) experimental
vice: (n.) immorality
vise: (n.) a device for holding
weather: (n.) the state of the atmosphere
whether: (conj.) expressing alternatives
whose: (poss. pro.) belonging to whom
who's: (contr.) who is; who has
your: (poss. pro) belonging to you
you're: (contr.) you are