

Confusing Words

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

A. Here are five sets of verbs which many people find confusing. Write the verbs next to the numbers matching their definitions in the spaces below.

tell / say rob / steal bring / take lend / borrow hear / listen to

- 1a. Carry something towards the speaker. 1b. Carry something away from the speaker.
2a. Communicate something in general. 2b. Instruct or give information to someone.
3a. Take and use something for a period of time. 3b. Give someone something for a period of time.
4a. Take things that don't belong to you. 4b. Take things unlawfully from a person or place.
5a. Sense a sound with your ears. 5b. Give your attention to a sound.

1. a. 2. a. 3. a. 4. a. 5. a.
 b. b. b. b. b.

B. Complete the sentences using the verb pairs from Exercise A in the correct form.

1. a. Someone tried to my bike. b. The men tried to the bank.
2. a. I can a strange noise. b. I always music when I clean.
3. a. me if you need anything. b. He he was sorry.
4. a. Can I a pen? b. I'll you the money if you need it.
5. a. Don't make a dessert. I'll one. b. You can't the books home.

C. There are many words of varying types which people confuse because they sound similar or the same. Complete the sentences describing the meanings of these words below.

passed / past lose / loose accept / except advice / advise effect / affect

1. a. (verb) means *to influence* b. (noun) means *the result*
2. a. (preposition) means *but not* b. (verb) is the opposite of *refuse*
3. a. (verb) means *be unable to find* b. (adjective) is the opposite of *tight*
4. a. (verb) is the participle of *pass* b. (noun) means *time gone by*
5. a. (verb) means *give counsel to* b. is the noun form of 5a

D. Complete the sentences using words from Exercise C.

1. a. My jeans aren't enough. b. I need to some weight.
2. a. It will have an on us all. b. The changes will everyone.
3. a. I you to listen to her. b. She gave me some good
4. a. I couldn't believe I'd the exam. b. In the people used to travel less.
5. a. Nobody Sam wanted any cake. b. I was reluctant to..... his kind offer.

E. i) Complete the questions using Confusing Words from the previous exercises in the correct form. Afterwards, take turns asking them to a partner.

1. If you saw your best friend's partner kissing someone else, would you them?
2. If you were offered a job that was unethical but had a high salary, would you it?
3. If you saw someone a bar of chocolate from a shop, would you tell anyone?
4. If you a classmate saying that they'd cheated on a test, would you tell the teacher?
5. If you could only one piece of music for the rest of your life, what would it be?
6. If you had to spend a year on a desert island, what three things would you with you?
7. If you could give one piece of to your ten-year-old self, what would it be?
8. Which would be worse, your wallet or your phone?
9. If you a friend money and they didn't pay you back, would you say something?
10. If you could travel in time, would you want to travel to the future or back into the

ii) Complete the statements below using words from the previous exercises in the correct form, then discuss them with your partner and see how many you agree on.

1. jeans look better on most people than tight ones do.
2. from a poor person is worse than robbing a bank.
3. People are much more stressed nowadays than they were in the
4. The environment we grow up in has a greater on our personality than genetics.
5. calming music can help you relax.
6. You should never money to a friend.
7. your memory would be worse than having only bad memories.