

# Confusing Words

## Teacher's Notes

**Description:** Accept or except? Advice or advise? Seeing as even *native* speakers often get these tricky words mixed up, one can imagine just how baffling our poor students must find them! And if they aren't enough to send them into throes of despair, what about those perplexing verb duos, often accounted for with just one verb in their own language, where the difference in meaning is so very fine that we start to question it ourselves? The exercises in this activity sheet help to familiarise students with some of the most Confusing Words in the English language, offering them fun and varied practice, both alone and with a partner.

**Aim:** To practise Confusing Words through a series of written and communicative exercises.

**Procedure:** Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

**Exercise A:** Students begin by matching the verbs with their definitions.

answer key:

- |                        |                      |                         |                       |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a. bring<br>b. take | 2. a. say<br>b. tell | 3. a. borrow<br>b. lend | 4. a. steal<br>b. rob | 5. a. hear<br>b. listen to |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|

**Exercise B:** Next, students complete the sentences using verbs from Exercise A in the correct form.

answer key:

- |                       |                            |                       |                         |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a. steal<br>b. rob | 2. a. hear<br>b. listen to | 3. a. tell<br>b. said | 4. a. borrow<br>b. lend | 5. a. bring<br>b. take |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|

**Exercise C:** Students then complete the sentences using the correct words.

answer key:

- |                           |                           |                        |                         |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a. affect<br>b. effect | 2. a. except<br>b. accept | 3. a. lose<br>b. loose | 4. a. passed<br>b. past | 5. a. advise<br>b. advice |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

**Exercise D:** Students go on to complete the sentences using words from Exercise C.

answer key:

- |                        |                           |                           |                         |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a. loose<br>b. lose | 2. a. effect<br>b. affect | 3. a. advise<br>b. advice | 4. a. passed<br>b. past | 5. a. except<br>b. accept |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

**Exercise E:** i) After this, students complete the conversation questions using words from the previous exercises. They then ask the questions to a partner.

answer key:

- |         |           |                   |          |              |
|---------|-----------|-------------------|----------|--------------|
| 1. tell | 2. accept | 3. steal/stealing | 4. heard | 5. listen to |
| 6. take | 7. advice | 8. losing         | 9. lent  | 10. past     |

ii) Lastly, students complete the statements using words from the previous exercises. They then discuss them with their partner and see how many they agree on.

answer key:

- |          |             |         |           |                 |         |           |
|----------|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. loose | 2. stealing | 3. past | 4. effect | 5. listening to | 6. lend | 7. losing |
|----------|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|---------|-----------|