Often-confused Words

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A quiet desert?

Quite a dessert!



alter altar	If you change something, you <i>alter</i> it. You worship before an <i>altar</i> .	The Reverend wanted to the position of the so that the congregation could see the new carvings.
among between	If only two people are dividing something, use <i>between</i> ; if more than two people are involved, use <i>among</i> .	Their father died. His money was divided Nelly and Roy; his land was divided Henry, James and Susan.
bad badly	When you're writing about how you feel, use <i>bad</i> . However, if you're writing about how you did something or performed or reacted to something, use <i>badly</i> .	Kevin felt that he had scored very on the test.
can may	If you <i>can</i> do something, you're physically <i>able to</i> do it. You <i>may</i> do it, you have <i>permission to</i> do it.	Little Johnny is a good swimmer. He not.
desert dessert	A <i>desert</i> is a dry, arid place. Sweet food is a <i>dessert</i> . To <i>emigrate</i> is to <i>exit</i> a country; to	Ron was lost in the
emigrate immigrate	<i>immigrate</i> is to <i>come into</i> a country	They were trying to from the tyranny of their communist government and to the United States.
fewer less	Use fewer to describe plural words; use less do describe singular words.	The new diet muesli has both calories and fat.
hear here	You hear with your ear. Here is the opposite of there.	Did you? that Aunt Susan is?
in into	In means within; into means from the outside to the inside.	Go your your room. You will find the money your purse.
its it's	It's means it is. Its means belonging to it.	a shame you forgot to give the dog food and water.
passed past	Passed is a verb; past is an adjective or noun meaning the preceding time.	In the , twenty parades down this street.
quiet quite	Quiet is calm or silent; quite means to a certain extent.	Are you sure you were in the library?
set sit	If you place something, you set it (<i>set</i> must have an object). If you're in a chair, you sit (<i>sit</i> doesn't have an object).	Please the table before you down.
to too two	Too means something additional; two is the number after one; to means in the direction of something.	Did the new manager ask the new employees go Norway,?
weather whether	If you mean conditions of the climate, use weather. If you mean which of if it's true, use whether.	It's now mid-April, and the can't decide it's spring or winter.
your you're	If you mean <i>belonging to you</i> , use <i>your</i> (this is our car; that is your car); if you mean <i>you are</i> , use <i>you're</i> (the apostrophe means the a has been omitted)	If in the sun in Torremolinos, be sure to put suntan cream on face, too.