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## Errors Spell Checkers Do Not Correct and Style Sheet

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Spell checkers in writing programs and communication devices may change a written word to an unintended one and may provide auto completion as well. The writer or reader may note that a piece of work may be free from red (misspelling) or green (grammar/syntax error) underlining, but the wording may not be as intended. Likewise the reverse may be true with the program flagging correctly written text. While dictionaries and lists of spelling demons, homonyms, and homophones exist, the following are a culling of words that spell checkers and auto completion programs may confuse. Each word is associated with a relevant related word to resolve ambiguity, and unlike a dictionary is better regarded as a thesaurus. The pairings are generally alphabetically ordered by the word's sound while yielding to the more common word. Because spell checkers allow multiple generally acceptable spellings, the preferred spelling is presented herein. While casual misuse is understandable, many of the listings herein have been observed as errors in student work, colleague communications, and in the media.

Generally words ending in *-ic* are denotative or characteristic; words ending in *-ical* are connotative or exceptional. Consider these: *comic -al, economic -al, historic -al, theatric -al*, etc., where “*the historical theatric presentation*” is a drama set in the past, but “*the historic theatrical presentation*” is a noteworthy florid oration. On the other hand, there are those that do not easily receive such treatment, e.g. *academic, athletic, ironic*, and *political* (*politic* is *proper* or a verb). Superlatives should be unmodified, but consider from the U.S. Constitution: “*In order to form a more perfect union.*” Preferred spellings exist for: *acknowledgment* and *judgment* (not *-dgement*); *collectible, deductible, convertible* (not *-able*); and *denunciation* and *pronunciation* (not *-nunciation*). Consider the following past tense words with double terminal consonants: [*p*]referred, conferred, deferred, inferred, and cancelled, but traveled.

Thereafter follows a style sheet while noting that different versions exist among various fields and publications. It is offered here recognizing that writing programs often do little to correct notational styles.

abrogation – annulment	approbation – approval
accept – approve	except – exclude, excerpt – portion
access – entrance	excess – extra
acquire – obtain	choir – chorus, quire – paper
acts – performs	ax(e)/-es – lumber tool/-s
ad/-s – marketing	add/-s – increase, adz – ax
addict – dependent	attic – roof
advice – suggestion [noun]	advise – suggest [verb]
affect – change[verb/noun psychology]	effect – outcome[noun]/+
+	cause [verb]
affinity – association	infinity – all, infinitely – unbounded
aid/-e – help/-er	-ade – juice drink      suffix
ail – ill	ale – drink
ain’t – is not [incorrect]	isn’t – is not [correct]
air/-ed – gas/exposed, ear – hearer, arid – dry, err/-ed – mistake/-n	I’ll – I will, ill – sick
aisle – passage	a line – straight segment
align – straighten	awl – tool, owl – bird
all – entire	a lot – plenty [not <i>alot</i> ]
allot – allocate	alley – small street
ally – friend	

aloft – airborne  
 already – recently  
 allusion – reference  
 ameliorate – improve,  
 anatomic – body  
 anchor – steadied  
 anima – soul  
 anonymous – unknown  
 appreciate – positive  
 approbation – approval  
 are – be  
 arise/arose – stand/stood [reflexive]  
 artistic – stylish design  
 as – per,  
 ascetic – poor  
 ask – question  
 aspire – hope  
 assault – attack  
 assay – analyze  
 astringent – chemical  
 ate – eat [past]  
 attach/-ed – fasten/-ed  
 attain – achieve  
 avocation – hobby  
 awful – astound  
 awry – unplanned  
 axes – lumber tools  
 aye – affirmative  
 babble – noise  
 back – rear  
 bail – payment/scoop  
 bait – lure  
 ball/-ed – sphere/dance/gathered  
 banister – railing  
 bar – rail  
 +  
 bard – writer, bird – animal, boar/-d – pig/panel, bored–drilled/fatigued  
 barrel – container  
 bask – sun bathe  
 batch – portion  
 bath/-e – immerse  
 bazaar – sales  
 be – to exist  
 bean – seed , bin – box  
 beast – wild animal  
 beatify – sanctify  
 beat – drum/conquer  
 beau – beauty  
 berth – place  
 bladder – bodily organ  
 blare – trumpet  
 blew – blow [past]  
 boat – ship bought – purchased,  
 bon mot – good word  
 aloof – avoid  
 all right – perfect [not *alright*]  
 illusion – unreal  
 amulet – charm [noun], emulate – surpass/copy  
 atomic – atom  
 anger – infuriate  
 enema – colon cleansing, enemy – opponent  
 unanimous – all  
 deprecate – insult, depreciate – decrease  
 probation – trial, appropriation – funding  
 R  
 arrive/-s – become/-s  
 autistic – impairment  
 ass/-es – donkey/butt, asset/-s – value  
 esthetic – art  
 ax(e) – tool  
 expire – end  
 salt – seasoning  
 essay – writing, say – speak  
 stringent – strict  
 eight – 8  
 attaché – diplomat  
 obtain – get  
 vocation – career  
 offal – rubbish  
 rye – grain, wry – thin/joke  
 axis – hub  
 I – me, eye – vision  
 Bible – book, bobble – trinket  
 bake – cook  
 bale – package, bill – due  
 bat – animal/hit, bit/-e – portion/[past]-chew  
 bawl/-ed – cry/-ied, bald – hairless  
 barrister – lawyer  
 bare – naked, bear – animal, beer – drink, +  
 bore – drill/fatigue, burr – rough edge  
 beryl – mineral, burl – wood  
 Basque – European region  
 bitch – female, botch – error, butch – male  
 booth – enclosure  
 bizarre – strange  
 bee – insect/B  
 been – be [past], Ben – male name  
 best – win/better [superlative]  
 beautify – pretty  
 beet – vegetable  
 bow – arrow launcher, boo[-boo] – scare/error  
 birth – born  
 blather – talk, blotter – dryer  
 blur /-ry – smudge, blear/-y – unfocused  
 blue – color  
 boot – load/shoe, bout –contest  
 bone moat – skeleton ditch, bonbon – candy

bough – branch	bow – bend
bowl – container	bowel – entrails
boy – male child	buoy – floater
bread – food	breed/bred – mate/-ed
brews – prepares drinks	bruise – wound
bumbershoot – umbrella [erroneously British]	broolly – umbrella [Brit]
but – however	butt – end, butte – promontory
buy – purchase	by – method, bye – so long
cache – hide	cash – money
cactus – plant [singular]	cacti – plants [plural]
cadence – tempo	credence – believable
café – restaurant	coffee – drink
calf – cow	cough – sputter, cuff – sleeve end
call – speak out	kale – plant, cool – slightly cold, cull – separate
calorie – heat	cavalier – callous, cavalry – mounted army
cant – slope/phrase	can't – cannot
canter – stroll	cantor – singer, candor – truth
cap – cover	cape – jetty/coat
capable – able	culpable – blame
capital – head city/funds	capitol – government building
car – vehicle	care – concern
carat – gem weight	carrot – vegetable, carob – seed
cart – carry	court – pursue/square/law, curt – short
carton – package	cartoon – panel
cat – animal	caught – catch, cot – bed, coat – cover, +
+	cut – separate, kit – pack [noun]
cease/-d-stop/-ped, cyst-bump, seize/-d-grab/-bed, size/-d-measure	seed – germ
cede – give up	celibate – unmarried
celebrate – party	sell – vend
cell – enclosure	cinder – ash, sinter – meld
center – middle	sense – meaning, since – from [time]
cents – pennies/hundredths,	serial – sequenced
cereal – grain	chit – receipt
chat – talk	check – note, Czech, cheek – face
chalk – crayon	C-/chuck – male name/stop
choke – squeeze	chaff – discards
chafe – scrape	char – burn
chair – seat	charred – burnt
chard – plant	chaste – virgin
chased – pursued	shatter – break
chatter – talk	chief – leader
chef – cook	choose/chose – choice [infinitive]/[past]
chew/-s – eat/-s,	chick – bird, sheik(-h) – Bedouin
chic – trendy	shin – leg, shim – adjust
chin – jaw	quire – paper, acquire – obtain
choir – chorus	ciao – hello/good bye [Italian]
chow – meal	site – location, sight – see
cite – quote	click – press, clique – group
claque – hired audience	clod – dirt/dullard
clawed – scratched	cloth/-e/-es – covering, cover, wardrobe
close – near/shutter	cloture – vote
closure – ending	course – path
coarse – unrefined	cocoa – chocolate, caca – feces [Spanish]
coca – cocaine	

coffer – box	coiffure – hair, cougher – dislodge [person]
collage – paste	college – school
committee – group	comity – courtesy, comedy – funny
common – likewise	commune – visit/group
complement/-ary – make whole	compliment/-ary – free gift
colonel – military rank	kernel – seed
concert – together	disconcerting – bothersome
cooperation – together	corporation – form of business
cop – plea/police	cope – deal with, cup – drink
core – center	corps – group/body, cur – scoundrel, cure – fix
cough – dislodge	cuff – clothing edge
council – group/advice [noun]	counsel – advise [verb]
cranial – brain	criminal – illegal
crews – teams	cruise – travel
criterion – standard [singular]	criteria – standards [plural]
crop – cut/plants	croup – disease
crutch – aid	crux – center
cue – prompt/stick	queue – waiting line, Q
daft – silly	deft – skillful, deaf – cannot hear
dairy – milk	diary – journal
dale – glen, dill – plant, doled/-lled – gave/prettied, dolt – dullard	dame – lady, damn – curse
dam – reservoir	dare – challenge, dire – bad, door – closure, dour – stubborn/morose
data – information [plural], date – time, datum – information [singular]	don – place
dawn – shed light	daze – dizzy
days – time periods	decoration – adornment
décor – design	defecation – excretion
defection – quit	defence – protection [British]
defense – protection	definite/-ly – certain/-ly
defiant/-ly – contrary	deign – condescend, din – noise, dine – eat, Dan/-e
den – residence,	depreciate – decrease
deprecate – insult	discretion – judgment
description – story	dessert – sweet meal
desert – dry place/depart	disparate – different
desperate – needy	didn't – did not, dent – bump
did – do [past]	dye/-s – tint/-s, dice – game
die/-s – cease/-s life	dope – dumb/glue, dupe – deceive
dip – submerge	dime – 10 cents
dim – less light	dingy – dirty
dinghy – small boat	voir dire – testimony [legal]
dire – extreme	due – deadline, dew – moist
do – perform	dough – bread/money
doe – deer	dose – portion, doze – sleep
does – performs/deer [plural]	docent – guide, dunce – dullard
doesn't – does not	done – complete, don't – do not, don/-ed – wear/wore, dun – penalty
done – complete, don't – do not, don/-ed – wear/wore, dun – penalty	dumb – not intelligent
doom – foreboding	dote – serve
dot – point	draught – beer, drought – dry
draft – design/tug	traumatic – wounded
dramatic – theatric	drip – flow, drop – fall, droop – sag
drape – cover	duct – piping
ducked – lowered	dual – double, dull – not bright
duel – gun fight	urn – receptacle
earn – gain	

ebullient – bubbly	embolism – blockage
eclectic – diverse	electric – energy, lactic – milk
effeminate – womanly	effete – fatigued
e.g. – example	i.e. – that is
el – elevated/L	eel – fish
elegant – stylish	eloquent – well spoken
emigrate – exit	immigrate – enter
emollient – sooth	immolate – sacrifice, amulet – charm [noun]
encryption – encode	inscription – writing
enigmatic – unknowable	magnetic – attractive
entomology – insect study	etymology – word origin
eon – time	ion – molecule
epic – historic	epoch – era
epitaph – tombstone	epithet – curse
equate – equal	equilibrate – balance, equivocate – avoid answer
eschew – avoid	issue – distribution
even – equal	event – celebration, eventual – end
ex – former	X
exacerbate – worsen	extricate – withdraw
exercise[-ize British] – implement	exorcise – drive out
exit – out	exist – to be
extant – existing	sextant – measuring device
extrapolate – extend	interpolate – estimate
ewe – sheep	you – thou, U
face – front	faze – bother, phase – cycle, fuss – bother
fact/-s – datum/data	fax – facsimile
fail – not succeed	fall – descend/autumn, fill – add
fairy – phantom	ferry – boat
fake[-]out – deceive/[deceit]	façade – front/cover
fanatic – devoted	frantic – urgent
far – not near	fair – just/bazaar, fare – price, fear – afraid, +
+	for/-e – to/front, fur – hair, four – 4
farther – distance	further – continue
fat – large	fate – destiny, fit – size/ready, fought – fight [past]
feat – performance	feet – foot [plural], fete – party
feels (not) well – touches (not) well	feels good/bad – health/sensation
felled – fallen	felt – hat material/feel [past]
filer – file [person]	flyer – fly [noun]
find – locate	feigned – faked, fined – cash punishment
finish – end/shine	Finnish – Finland
fiscal – calendar	physical – movement
flaccid – deflated	flax – plant
flap – cover/disagreement	flip – turn, flop – failure
flat – smooth/apartment, flit – flew, float – rise/launch, flout – disregard	
flatter – smoother/charm[verb] flutter – flit	
flimflam – mistruth, flimsy – weak, phlegm – sputum, Fleming – Flemish	
flea(s) – insect(s)	flee(s) – depart(s), fleece – wool/rob
flecks – spots	flex – bend
flew – fly [past]	flue – furnace vent
flour – food ingredient	flower – plant bloom
fold – crease	foaled – horse birth
fool – dumb	fuel – energy, foal – horse
for – intended	fore – before, four – 4
forth – proceeding	fourth – 4 <sup>th</sup>

form – style	forum – theater
formally – officially	formerly – previously
fort – fortification	forte – strength, forté – loud
found – discovered	fun/-d – pleasure/monies
freight – shipment	fret – worry/musical scale
friar – priest	fryer – cook
fraud – deceit	fraught – filled
freeze – solidify	frieze – decorative façade
fulsome – deceptive	Folsom – city
fungus – mushroom	fungi – mushrooms [plural]
gaff – error	golf – game, guff – backtalk, gulf – void
gait – slow gallop	gate – low door, get – obtain
gal – woman	gale – wind, gall – nerve, gill – breathe
gander – bird	gender – sex
gash – cut	gauche – left/passé, gosh – wow, gush – pour
gamble – chance	gambol – skip
gear – cog	gore – morbid, gyre – turn
gee – exclamation	G
gem – stone	gym – building, Jim – male name
genius – very smart	genus – classification
gentle – kindly	gentile – non believer
get/got – obtain/-ed,	goat – animal, gout – disease, gut – bowel
gilt – golden	guilt – blame
gist – essence	jest – joke, just – proper
gloom – dark	glum – sad
gnat – insect	gaol – jail [British]
net – catch, newt – animal, nit – insect, nut – seed	gun – pistol, gone – went
goal – purpose	graffito – wall writing [singular] graffiti – wall writings [plural]
goon – gangster	grin – smile, groan – sigh
graffito – wall writing [singular] graffiti – wall writings [plural]	great – large, greet – welcome
grain – seed, wood	gristly – ligaments
grate – grill/shrill	grown – full sized
grisly – gray	hair – fur, hare – rabbit, hear – listen, here – close by, here're – here are
groan – outcry	hail – salute /snow hall – passage, haul – carry, hill – mountain
hair – fur, hare – rabbit, hear – listen, here – close by, here're – here are	hatch – opening
hail – salute /snow hall – passage, haul – carry, hill – mountain	hate – dislike, hit – strike, hot – warm, hut – shed
hatch – opening	hitch – halt, hutch – bin
have – possess	halve – divide equally
hang/-ed – suspend/-ed	hung – endowed
hay – plant	hey – salutation
head – top/toward	heed – follow
heal – recover	heel – rear of foot
heard – listened herd – animal group, hoard – group, horrid – bad	hers – female possessive
hearse – funeral carriage	heckle – jeer
hackle – neck	hymn – song, hem – mend
him – male [object]	hippopotamuses – animals [plural]
hippopotamus – animal	hoe – tool
ho – greeting/whore	whole – complete
hole – opening	horse – animal, whores – libertines
hoarse – voiceless	whore – libertine
horror – frightening	hypo – less
hyper – more	immanent – thoughts
imminent – soon	infer – perceive
imply – intend	

in – preposition	inn – tavern, en – N
inalienable – permanent	unalienable – permanent [archaic]
incite – instigate	insight – understanding
inscription – writing	encryption – encode
infinitely – unbounded	infinity – forever, affinity – association
insolent – rude insolvent – inert,	insulate – protect from heat/cold
irascible – anger prone	irrational – illogical
ire – anger	oar – boat tool, or/-e – instead/mineral
its – possessive	it's – it is
jail/-ed – imprison/gaol [Brit.]/-ed,	jilt – no agreement
jar – container, ajar – open	jeer – heckle, gyre – rotate
jejune – young	June – month/name
jewel – gem	joule – energy
jet – speed	jot – write, jut/jetty – extension, jute – plant
kill/-ed – murder/-ed	kale – plant, kiln – oven, kilt – male skirt
knave – rascal	naïve – ignorant
knead – roll dough	need – necessity
knew – understood	gnu – animal, new – unknown, nu – N/v
knight – rank	night – darkness
knot – tie	not – negative, naught - nothing
know/-s – understand/-s	no/-es – negative, nose – smell
lack/-s – miss/-es, lake/-s – pond/-s,	lax – loose, like/-s – prefer/-s
ladder – steps	later – in future, latter – further
lain – placed	lane – path, lawn – grass
lair – den, leer – look, liar – false,	lawyer – barrister, layer – put, lure – bait
lamb – sheep	lame – less able
largesse – charity	largest – biggest
lash – fasten	lush – verdant/drunken
late – tardy	let – permit, lit – land/light, lot – plenty/status
lath – plaster	lathe – cut
laugh/-ed – joke/-ed	loft – attic/launch
launch – inaugurate	lunch – meal
law – rule	lay – recline, lie – place/untruth, lye – chemical
leafs – flips through	leaves – departs/leaf [plural]
leak – drip	leek – plant
left – port [side]	leafed – flipped through, lift - raise
legislator – representative	legislature – parliament
lessee – renter	lessor – owner, lesser – smaller
lends – loans	lens – optic
lessen – decrease	lesson - instruction
letter – character/message	liter – volume, litter – offspring
laze – relax	lays – reclines, liaise – connect, lase – laser [verb]
lieu – place	loo – toilette [British]
lightening – less heavy	lightning – spark
literal – verbatim	littoral – coastal
lodge – place	loge – balcony
loon – bird	lune – moon [French], loom – weave/hover
loot – pilfer	lute – instrument, lewd – vulgar
lose – misplace	loose – not tight, louse – insect
macro – large	micro – small
made – make [past]	mad – crazy, maid – female servant
magnanimous – kindly	magnificent – grand
mail – postal	male – masculine, mill – grind
maim – harm, Ma'am – madam,	mom – mother, mum – quiet/flower



main – central	mane – horse hair, Maine (USA/France)
major – important	force majeure – dominating [legal]
mall – courtyard,	maul – mistreat, moll – girl, mole – animal/blemish
mammary – female	memory – recall
many – numerous	mini – small
mar–deface, mere–only, mire–stuck,	more–plus/norm, moor–tie/field
marking – print	marketing – promotion
marry – wed	merry – happy, Mary – girl’s name
martyr – victim	mortar – cement, motor – engine
mash – crush mishmash – mess,	mosh – dance, mush – cereal
massage – rub	message – sent information masticate – chew
matriculate – study [verb]	
mat – rug	mate – spouse, matt – no luster, met – encountered
mauve – grayish purple	move – shift
meat – flesh	meet – encounter
medal – award meddle – interfere,	metal – chemical, mettle – spirit
meld – join	melt – liquefy
meretricious – vulgar/money	meritorious – worthy
mew – cat sound	moo – cow sound, mu – M/μ
mile/-stone – distance/marker,	mill/-stone – grind/-er, melee – fight
mitt – glove	myth – legend, mit – with [German]
mold – form/fungus	molt – shed
mnemonic –memory aid, monotony/-ic	–repeats/rises, moronic–stupid
mind – consciousness	mined – dug
miner – digger	minor – juvenile/lesser
minute – 60 seconds/small	minuet – dance
misery – suffering	miserly – stingy
missed – omitted	mist – water
model – miniature	mottle – speckled
moot – past questioning	moat – ditch, mute – quiet, mutt – dog
moose – animal/-s	mouse/mice – fluffy, animal/-s, muss – mess
more – additional	mores – customs
much – great	mulch – soil
muscle – flesh	mussel – shellfish
nail – fastener/claw	nil – nothing
naught – nil, net – catch, newt – animal,	not – no, node – branch, +
+ nod –head down, gnat/nit –insect,	note –jot/music, nut –seed
naval – maritime	navel – belly
nay – negative	née – born as
near – close by	ne’er – never
none – negative	nun – cleric, noon – midday
nook – opening	nuke – nuclear
nose – breathe	noose – loop
oak – tree	OK – approved
oat – grain	out – exit, ought – should, owed – indebted
octopus – animal	octopuses – animals [plural]
of – from	off – not on, oaf – dullard
oh – exclamation	owe – due, O
on – upon	own – possess
one – 1	won – win [past]/Chinese
orient – locate/east	orientate – locate [British]
over – above/passed	oeuvre – work effort [French]
paced – followed	paste – glue
pail – bucket, pal – friend, pale – whitish,	pill – medicine/shed[verb]

pair – couple	par – equal, pare – trim, pear – fruit, +
+ <i>panino</i> – sandwich [singular]	peer – equal/look, pier – wharf, pyre – crematory <i>panini</i> – sandwiches [plural]
paparazzo – fish, photographer	paparazzi – photographers [plural]
parameter – variable	perimeter – boundary
part – piece	port – harbor/-our [British]/liquor/left
passé – old	posse – group
passed – overtook	past – former
pat/pet – touch/animal,	pit–hole, pot–contain, pout–sad, +
+ patch – covering	put/-t–place/stroke
paunch – stomach	pitch – tar/music
pause – stop	punch – hit
paws – mammal feet,	pa’s – dad’s, posse – group
pea – vegetable	pee – urinate/P
peace – tranquility	piece – portion
peculiar/-ity – uniqueness	pecuniary – money, culinary – cooking
pearl – jewelry	peril – danger, puerile – childish
pealed – unwrapped	pelt – strike/fur
pen – enclosure/writer	pin – pointed
penal – punishment	penile – male sex
penultimate – 2 <sup>nd</sup> to last	ultimate – 1 <sup>st</sup> /last, petulant – fretful
pernicious – mean spirited	promiscuous – libertine
perquisite/perk – benefit/alert	prerequisite – requirement
personal – individual	personnel – employees
perturbation – agitation	protuberance – protruding
picture – scene	pitcher – thrower/container
pie – dessert	pi – $\Pi/\pi$
pip – bud	pipe – tube
plain – simple	plane – flatten/airplane
plum – fruit	plumb – align
pole – long stick, Pole – Polish	poll – survey, pol – politician
pond – lake	pound – weight/hit
pool – gather [verb]/lake/game	pull – tug
poor – not rich	pore – opening, pour – dispense
poppycock – nonsense	popinjay – talkative
portend – foretell	pretend – not genuine
posh – nice/“ <u>Port</u> <u>Out</u> <u>Stern</u> <u>Home</u> ”	push – shove
postpone – delay	prepone – advance [Indian]
pray – ask	prey – food
precede – prior	proceed – continue
precept – presumption	preset – default
precipitate – rain/cause	reciprocate – respond
precipitous – hasty	propitious – favorable
prefer – like	preferred – liked/equity, preference – choice
premier – chief	première – first performance
prerequisite – requirement	perquisite/perk – reward/alert
prescribe – recommend	proscribe – bounded
president – [not capitalized]	President – [with proper name]
pries – opens with effort	prize – value
prim – proper	prime – basic
principal – important	principle – rule
prior – previous	prier – opener, priory – church
profit – gain	prophet – foretell
prone – reclined	prune – fruit

province – region  
 pubic – sexual privates  
 purse – bag/kiss  
 pylon – pole  
 quail – animal  
 quash – suppress  
 quit – cease  
 rabbis – clerics  
 rack – display  
 rail – complain/guide  
 rain – precipitation, ran – run [past], reign – governance, rein – leash  
 raise/-ed – lift, parent [verb]  
 ranch – farm,  
 rap/-ped – tap/speak, rape – violate, wrap – contain, rapt – engrossed  
 rare – unusual  
 rat – animal  
 read – view/-ed words  
 recede – pull back  
 recreation – relaxation  
 reek – smell bad  
 refer/-red – indicate/-d,  
 +  
 relay/-s – sequence/-s  
 remainder – leftover  
 remuneration – payment  
 resume – continue  
 revile – ridicule  
 rhinoceros – animal  
 rice – grain  
 rid/-s – dispose/-s  
 rife – full  
 right – correct/starboard, rite – ceremony, wright – worker, write – print  
 rigor – difficult  
 roam – wander  
 rob/-bed – steal/stole, robe/-d – clothe/-d, rub/-bed – massage/-d  
 role – character  
 roof – building cover  
 root – plant  
 rose – lifted/flower  
 rot/-e – decay/memory, rut – groove, wrought – work, wrote – printed  
 roughly – approximately  
 row – boat/scuffle  
 rye – grain  
 sack – bag/discharge  
 sacred – holy  
 sad – unhappy  
 +  
 sail – boat by wind  
 sallow – sickly yellow  
 salve – ointment  
 sanguine – warm  
 sap – tree/drain, sip – drink,  
 sate/-ed – feed/fed fully  
 satin – cloth  
 provenance – origin, providence – gift  
 public – everyone  
 parse – separate, per se – as such  
 python – snake  
 quill – feather  
 squash – plant/crush  
 quite – more so, quiet – silence  
 rabies – animal disease  
 rake – tool/lewd  
 real – true, reel – coil, rile – disturb  
 raise/-d – destroy, rays – shine  
 raunchy – rude, wrench – tool, wretch – horrid  
 rear – back/raise, roar – yell  
 rate – evaluate/tariff, writ – legal  
 red – color/[-ur British], reed – grass  
 reside – inhabit, reseed – replant  
 re-creation – repeat  
 wreck – damage  
 reefer – refrigerator/joint, refereed – juried +  
 reference – source  
 rely/-ies – depend/-s  
 reminder – recall  
 re-(e)numeration – recount  
 résumé – personal summary  
 reveille – wake up  
 rhinoceroses – animals [plural]  
 rise/rose – lift/-ed/flower  
 writ/-s – warrant/-s, Ritz – 5 star  
 riff/-raff – portion/commoner  
 de rigueur – proper, vigor – strength  
 Rome – city  
 roll – list/revolve  
 rough – irregular  
 rout – extract, route – plan  
 rows – lines/strokes  
 ruffled – loose folds  
 roué – cad, rho – P/p  
 wry – thin/jest, awry – unplanned  
 sake – interest/drink  
 scare/-d – frighten/-ed, scar/red – wound/-ed  
 said – say [past], side – vertical, sod – soil, +  
 sighed – breathed, suds – soapy  
 sale – vend, soil – dirty  
 shallow – not deep  
 save – conserve, savvy – smart  
 sequin – ornament  
 soap – cleanser, soup – meal, sup – dine  
 seat/-ed – sit/sat  
 Satan – Devil

scald – burn	scold – reprimand, schooled – educated
scale – weigh/covering	skill – ability, school – learn
scene – locale	seen – had viewed
scent – smell	sent – send [past]
scheme – plot	skim – superficial, scam – deception
scotch – a drink	Scots – people
scrap – discard	scrape – scratch
scuffle – fight	shuffle – rearrange
sea – ocean	see – view/province, C
seam – stitch	seem – appear
sear – cook	seer – foresee, soar/-ed – to fly/[past], sore – pain, +
+	sour/-ed – rotten, sword – blade
secede – withdraw	succeed – win
sects – devotees	sex – procreation
seek/-s – search/-es	Sikh/-s – Punjabi/-s, six – 6
selfish – own	shellfish – crustacean
sense – meaning	since – from [time], cents – pennies
sewer – drain/seamstress	soar – fly
sewn – stitched	soon – near in time, sown – seeded
shackle – chain	shekel – coin
shall – will, shell – cover,	shill – cohort, shoal – coast, school – learn
shard – fragment	shared – gave
shoe – foot/hoof, shoo – scatter,	show/-n – display/-ed, shun - avoid
shoot – fire [verb]	shut – close
shudder – shiver	shutter – closer/-ure
sic – verbatim	sick – ill
sigh – wistful breath	psi – Ψ/φ, scythe – cutter
sign – indication	sin/-e – fault/trigonometry, sen – Japanese
sir/-e – male salutation	sire – birthed
slaw – salad, slew – killed,	slow – not fast, slough – pond/shed [verb]
smelled – sensed odor	smelt – metal treatment/fish
smoke – burn	smote – strike
snip – cut	snipe – shoot/bird
so – more	sow – to plant/pig, sew – to stitch
soar – fly	sore – pain, sour – rotten
sold – sell [past]	soled – shoed, soiled – dirtied, silt – mud
solder – meld	soldier - military
sole – single/bottom	soil – dirt/-y, soul – essence, +
+	Seoul – South Korea capital
some – partial	sum – total, psalm – prayer
son – male child	sun – star
sot–drunk, soot–ash, suit –apropos/outfit, sued–law, sought–seek [past]	
span – reach	spin/-un – rotate/-d, spoon – utensil/snuggle
spare – conserve	spear – sword, spore – seed, spur - extension
spat/spit [past] – discharge/roisserie, spite – revenge, spate – period	
speak/spoke – talk/[past]/wheel spook – ghost	
spell – write/time	spill – overturn, spool – wheel
squib – degrees	squab – bird, squid – fish
staid – sober/established	stayed – remained
stair – tread	star – sky/actor, stare – look at, starboard – right
stake – investment	steak – beef
stationary – fixed in place	stationery – writing paper
steal – rob	steel – metal, stole – coat/robbed, stool – chair/feces
steep – sloped/linger	step – advance, steppe – prairie

steer/-ed – animal/guide/-d	stir/-red – mix/-ed
stick/-s – branch/-es	shtick – act, Styx – river
straight – direct	strait – narrow
strange – bizarre	strangle – squeeze
sully – besmirch, surly – rude,	surely – positively, Shirley–female name
summary – outline	summery – warm
sublime – chemical/subtle	supine – back
superficial – skim	superfluous – unnecessary, supercilious – arrogant
surpass – better	surprise – unexpected
swap – exchange	sweep – clean, swipe – steal, swoop – fly
swath – cut	swarthy – dark
sweat – perspiration	sweet – sugary
tabulation – tally	titillation – tease, tintinnabulation – tinkling
tack/-s/-ed – fasten/-s/-ed	tact – skill, take – receive, tax – fee
tail – rear	tale – story, tell – say
tambour – drum	tamper – disrupt
tap – touch, tape – fastener/record,	tip – turnover, type – genre/print
tare – net weight	tear/tore – eye/rip/[past], tier – stage, +
+	tire – wheel/fatigue, tour – travel
tart – sweet	tort – damage
taught – instructed	taut – tight, tot – child, tote – carry
tea/-s – a drink	tease – taunt, tee/-s – T/Ts
temblor – quake	timber – wood, tremble – shiver
temerity – fearless	timidity – shyness
ten – 10	tin – metal, tine – fork
tentacle – extremity	testicle – male sex
tent – cloth structure	tint – to color
tern – bird	turn – revolve
than – comparative	then – followed, thin – not thick, thine – yours
the – specific	thee – you, they – them, though – however
their – possessive,	there – place, there're – there are, they're – they are
these – nearby	thesis/-es – idea/-s
threw – throw [past]	through – method, thorough – entire
till – turn soil/cashbox	'til – until
time – clock	thyme – seasoning
tip – turn over/benefit	type – write/version
to – infinitive/direction	too – also/very, two – 2
toad – frog	towed – pulled
toe – foot digit	tow – pull, tau – T/τ
told – said	tolled – rang, toiled – worked
ton/-ne – 2,000 pounds/[British] tone – pitch, atone – undo harm	tune – song
toon – cartoon	trowel – tool
towel – drying cloth	trial – deliberation, trill – music
trail – path	trine – triple
train – exercise/vehicle	transliteration – translate letters
translation – change language	trap – snare trip/-e – journey/misstep/worthless, troop – group
trap – snare	tread/trod – sole/step/[past] treed – up a tree, tried – try [past]/juried
tread/trod – sole/step/[past]	treble –music/3 times[adjective], triple –thrice[verb], trouble –difficulty
treble –music/3 times[adjective], triple –thrice[verb], trouble –difficulty	treachery – betrayal
treachery – betrayal	treasury – funds
trellis – support	trestle – bridge
tribulation – trial	trepidation – fear
trickle – drip	treacle – molasses
trust – rely	tryst – meeting, triste –sad [French]

underling – subordinate	underlining – underscored
vain – selfish    vane – propeller,	vein – path/meaning, vine – plant
valet – servant	valley – depression
valor – courage	velour – velvet
valuable – worthy	viable – life
vary – change	very – more so
vat – container	vet – to examine, vet['] – veteran/veterinarian
version – model type	virgin – chaste
vertex – angle	vortex – turbulence
vial – container	vile – abhorrent
waif–child, wave–salute, wove–sew [past], wife–woman, waive–excuse	whale–sea mammal
wail–cry	waste – left over
waist – mid body	weight – proportion/measure, wit – smart
wait – delay    , wet – moisten,	WAC – Women’s Army Corps , wax – from bees
wake/-s – wave/-s	wonder – question
wander – without goal	wear/wore – clothe/[past], wire – thread, +
ware – products	were – be [past], we’re – we are
+	
was/-n’t – be[past]/-not, way/-s – path/-s, weigh/-s – measure/-s	wee – small
we – us	week – 7 days
weak – not strong	whether – if
weather – climate	wired – electrified
weird – different	we’ll – we will
well – good [adverb]/source	whet – sharpen
wet – moist	wile – skill/idle
while – during	wine – drink
whine – shrill complaint	world – environ
whirled – swung	whom – [object], whose – possessive
who’s – [subject]/who is	Y
why – question	Wendy – girl’s name
windy – gusty	won’t – will not
wont – predisposed	would/-n’t – inclined/-not
wood – tree material	reek – smell
wreck – destroyed	yet – until
yacht – boat	y’all – you all
yawl – tool	you’re – you are, your – [possessive], yore – past
year – time	Yute – Indian, jute – plant
you’d – you would, Jude – name	Yule – Christmas
you’ll – you will	

### Style Preferences

Title and heading conjunctions and prepositions are often not capitalized (*and, or, but, in, on, of, against, under, ...*). A heading normally takes no punctuation, underlining or italics and should start the next page if nothing would otherwise appear below it on the same page. The word “*an*” instead of “*a*” precedes words starting with vowel sounds. Noun and verb agreement regarding singular and plural is *de rigueur* ; in the third person, non irregular forms have a terminal *s* on either the noun (plural) or the verb (singular). Seasons (*winter, spring, summer, fall/autumn*) are not capitalized unless used as proper nouns (*In the winter the Spring Festival will start*). Multiple adverbs and adjectives take a hyphen between related words (*two-year multiple course disciplines*), [verb]-[preposition] takes a hyphen when used as a noun (*shake-down, strike-out, break-up*), as well as the written numbers between *twenty-one* and *ninety-nine*. Writing programs often convert two hyphens to a dash (–) and is appropriate for an explanation. Common abbreviations include e.g. (examples), i.e. (namely), and NB (note well as a footnote). Superscripts are used for citations to footnotes or references (<sup>1</sup>); subscripts are used for differentiated variables (*A<sub>1</sub>* vs. *A<sub>3</sub>*). Counted small integer numbers are properly spelled out as words; sizes are properly expressed as numerals (*three 2 ounce packages*).

Use a decimal point (.) in numbers for proportions less than one and commas (,) between thousands, but not for years; this differs from some European notation which may reverse these or use spaces for thousands; U.S. billion and trillion may be European milliard and billion respectively. Ordinal numbers (can be treated arithmetically) are written in Arabic characters (3, 219, etc.); cardinal numbers (nominal or not subject to arithmetic treatment) are written in Roman numerals (III, CCXIX, etc.). Educational degree award dates and dates of publication take brackets [2011], employment periods take parentheses (*from- to*). Parenthesis usage in mathematics is nested as ( [ { ... } ] ).

While subject to variation, punctuation should end within the closing quotation mark (.”), (!”), and (?”) while noting that others including *Jeopardy!* place these marks (”?) after for titles. Names of books and publications are *italicized* (formerly underlined) as are foreign and new words or for emphasis. The opening and closing quotation marks properly appear as inverted versions of each other (“...”). Double spacing is preferred between sentences (and avoids confusion regarding terminal abbreviations)—likewise for colons (: ) if a list follows. Commas (,) separate all listed items of three or more (...*colleges of Baltimore, William and Mary, and Dover*). Spacing between ellipses (...) and initials (U.S.) may be omitted. Semicolons (;) separate closely related sentences and they separate greater lists from lesser lists. Symbols (% and \$) are used in tables, but in a sentence are properly spelled out as *percent* and *dollar(s)*. The apostrophe (') is before the *s* for possessives and after for plural possessives (*Jones' vs. Joneses*). Numbers receive similar treatment (*30's music vs. the 40s*) while notable decades are spelled out as proper names (*the Twenties, the Sixties*).

**See also:**

Funk & Wagnall's Standard College Dictionary, California State Department of Education

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Errors Caused by Over-Reliance on Spelling Checkers, by Sean Igo

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/spellcheck.html>

Spell Checker "Misspellings" <http://englishplus.com/news/news0102.htm>

SPELL CHECKER DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK <http://www.csun.edu/~vcecn006/spell.html>

Spelling and Grammar Errors that Can Ruin Your Site; Common Spelling and Grammar Errors on Web Pages By Jennifer Kyrnin, <http://webdesign.about.com/od/grammar/a/common-spelling-errors.htm>