The Spelling Plus list is indicated if either or both words are on a list.

**Recommended grade levels** are suggestions only. Teachers decide when to introduce homophones.

Definitions are brief and include only the most common meanings and parts of speech, to help students distinguish the words from one another. For complete definitions, use a dictionary.

**Background information** from which teachers select what will help their students:
- Why the words may be especially confusing.
- Relative frequency, from *Frequency Analysis of English Usage: Lexicon and Grammar.*
- Meanings of word parts.
- Historical and etymological information.
- Mnemonics.

### accept – except

**Spelling Plus list 59.**

**Recommended for grade 6.**

**accept** v. to receive willingly  
**except** prep. other than, but

Both of these words come from the same Latin root. Because the first syllables are unaccented, the pronunciation is confusingly similar. Both words are used with about the same frequency.

The root *cept* means “take.”

The prefix *ac-* (same as *ad-*) means “toward.” So *accept* has the meaning “take toward.”

The prefix *ex-* means “out.” Think of *exit.* So *except* has the meaning “take out.”

Associate *accept* with *yes* and *except* with *no.*

### access – excess

**Not on the Spelling Plus list.**

**Recommended for grade 6.**

**access** n. the right to enter or use  
**excess** n. adj. more than enough

Both of these words are used with about the same frequency in English. Although they have different pronunciations, the difference may be difficult to hear.

**Access** comes from the Latin *accessus* which meant “approach.”

**Excess** comes from the same Latin root as *exceed* which means “to pass the limits of.”

Associate *access* with *approach* and *excess* with *exceed.* Pronounce the words clearly while spelling.
ACCEPT — EXCEPT

1. The club will ____________________ all donations.
2. Everyone was invited to the party ____________________ Pam.
3. I will ____________________ your offer.
4. All of the girls ____________________ Christina may line up now.
5. Will you ____________________ this gift from me?
6. All of the houses ____________________ ours have gardens.
7. Everyone ____________________ you has brown hair.
8. I will ____________________ the job offer.
9. Everyone can go ____________________ me. I have to work.
10. All of our guests ____________________ the little children are fishing.
11. He will surely ____________________ your invitation.
12. Sure, I’ll ____________________ a ride to school with you.
13. Everyone can go ____________________ my little sister.
14. I will ____________________ your apology.
15. I like it ____________________ for the color.
16. I have to work every day ____________________ Tuesday.
17. I am certainly not going to ____________________ your excuses.
18. He remembered everything ____________________ his tennis shoes.
19. The teacher won’t ____________________ any late work.
20. I finished everything ____________________ my math.
ITS — IT’S

1. It looks like _________________ raining again.
2. She was very pleased with _________________ color.
3. _________________ fur was brown and white.
4. _________________ a beautiful, sunny day!
5. After several months, _________________ leg finally healed.
6. _________________ not fair!
7. Can you tell me if _________________ working?
8. _________________ windows were broken.
9. I can’t tell if _________________ hot or cold.
10. I think _________________ going to be an exciting day.
11. A dog sheds _________________ coat at least once a year.
12. _________________ even bigger than the last fish I caught!
13. When the book fell in the snow, _________________ cover was ruined.
14. I’m afraid _________________ going to be a long day.
15. _________________ good to be home.
16. _________________ fur was long and very soft.
17. I think _________________ the best ice cream!
18. _________________ collar is gold plated.
19. Mother says _________________ too dark to play outside.
20. _________________ name is Big Blue.
THERE — THEY’RE — THEIR

1. ____________ were five animals coming out of the forest.
2. ____________ teeth were sharp and glittering.
3. Oh no, ____________ coming this way!
4. But what if ____________ noses are so good they can smell us?
5. I’m afraid ____________ is a good chance of that.
6. ____________ sniffing the air. Maybe they know we’re here.
7. ____________ must be something we can do.
8. ____________ so scary looking!
9. I bet ____________ claws are sharp!
10. ____________ turning around and running back into the forest.
11. Something must be chasing them. Look, ____________ it is!
12. Wow! A bear. He’s right on ____________ tracks.
13. ____________ fast though. I bet they’ll get away.
14. I’m glad they ran over ____________ and not over here!
15. Can you hear ____________ howls in the distance?
16. I wonder if ____________ going to be all right.
17. I’m sure ____________ running as fast as possible.
18. I think they’ll run to ____________ dens and hide.
19. Our car is over ____________ . Let’s get out of here!
20. Oh no! I can’t remember whether or not I left the keys in
    ____________!