

### Complimentary / Complementary

Complimentary is an adjective which means "given freely, or giving praise"

The teacher was very **complimentary** about my work.

Complementary is an adjective, which means, "supplying needs"

The **complementary** relationship of the bee and the flower is quite remarkable.

### Different from / Different than

Different from is a preposition, which precedes a noun phrase

He is **different from** your average shop owner.

Different than is a preposition which precedes a noun clause

London is **different than** we had imagined.

### Enough

Enough is an adverb, which precedes a noun and follows an adjective

He knows **enough** English to study in England.

She is fast **enough** to win the race.

### Every so often / Ever so often

Every so often is an adverb meaning "occasionally"

They come **every so often**. I wish they could come more frequently.

Ever so often is an adverb meaning "frequently"

They come **ever so often**. I wish they would stay home.

## **First / Former**

First as an adjective refers to three or more items

The **first** five skiers fell.

Former as an adjective refers to two or fewer items

The **former** Secretary of State for the U.S., Colin Powell, was the first black to hold that position.

## **From / Since / For**

**From** is a preposition followed by a noun or noun phrase.

As a time marker, it requires **to** or another preposition.

From now on I will lead the way.

From Monday **to** Friday, I work like a slave.

**Since** is a subordinate conjunction followed by a clause.

It expresses "the time something began" or "the beginning of time"

Since Wednesday, I have walked 6 miles a day.

**For** is a preposition followed by a noun or noun phrase.

It expresses "the length of time (**duration**) something has lasted."

For two weeks I have walked to work every day.

## **Lie / Lay**

**Lie** is an intransitive verb meaning "to recline"

He **lies** down for a nap after his lunch.

**Lay** is a transitive verb which means "to put or place"

He **lay** the book on the desk and left the room.

## **A Few / A little**



A few means "some / not many." Used with countable nouns.

A **few** people were standing outside the shop waiting to get in.

A little means "some / not much." Used with non-count nouns.

He gave me a **little** cheese to eat with my bread.

### Passed / Past

Passed is a transitive verb and past participle of the verb pass

She barely **passed** the exam.

Past is a preposition or adjective meaning "by"

We will keep school open **past** June.

She walked **past** without saying hello.

### Raise / Rise

Raise is a transitive verb meaning to move to a higher place.

Tom **raised** his hand to answer a question.

Rise is an intransitive verb meaning to go up or ascend.

The sun **rises** in the morning.

### Say / Tell

Say is a transitive verb meaning to express in words

I **said** that she should stay home tonight.

Tell is an intransitive verb also meaning to express in words

It **told** him to stay home but he didn't listen.

(Never, **never**, **NEVER** told to him)

### Sit / Set

Sit is an intransitive verb meaning to rest on something.

**Sit** on the bench and not on the grass.

Set is a transitive verb meaning to place something.

She **set** the soup and spoons on the table.

### **Speak / Speech**

Speak is a verb meaning "to say out loud"

"**Speak** louder. I can't hear you!"

Speech is a noun meaning "what is said aloud"

Politicians give the same boring **speech** over and over again when running for political office.

### **Than / Then**

Than is a conjunction used in comparisons

She is taller **than** her sister.

Then as an adjective or adverbial conjunction relates to time

First we will work; **then** we will go out for lunch.

### **Watch / See**

Watch is a transitive verb meaning "to look at or observe carefully"

He **watched** his grand children playing in the yard

See is a transitive verb meaning "to perceive with the eye"

He **saw** the children go into the house.



## Affect / Effect

**Affect** as a verb means "to influence, act upon, or change sth or sme"

The noise inside the stadium **affected** his performance.

**Effect** is usually a noun (thing) meaning to have an impact on something or someone.

His smile had a strange effect on me.

Effect can also mean "the end result."

Example: The drug has many adverse side effects.

Verb. To influence

Noun. The resulting emotion

Verb. To cause to happen

We were all affected by the drought.

The effect of the drought was an increase in food prices.

The drought effected an increase in price.

## Amount / Number

Amount is a noun referring to non count nouns

Unfortunately, a huge **amount** of oil leaked out of the tank.

Number is a noun referring to count nouns

Though few in **number**, judges have much power in Greece.