

4. VERBAL ABILITY

WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED

Words that are similar in form or sound, but different in meaning. A list of such words liable to be confused is given below.

Accept: to receive with favour

I accept your offer

Except: to omit or exclude

If you except the last term I shall accept the contract.

Alter: a place for offering

The pious old man bowed before the altar

Altar: To change

Nothing can alter my decision.

Avocation: a subordinate occupation, usually one pursued for pleasure and

Pastime rather than for gain

His vocation is photography

Vocation: chief occupation

His vocation is banking and his avocation is painting.

Womanly: befitting a woman

Modesty is a womanly virtue

Womanish: like woman (used

contemptuously) It was womanish on his part to shed tears.

Verbal: oral; not written

I cannot carry out your verbal orders

Verbose : containing more words than are

wanted. He writes in a verbose style.

Temporary: that which lasts only for a short period

This post is purely temporary

Temporal: earthly; opposed to

spiritual I do not care for temporal interests.

Conscious: aware

She is conscious of her faults

Conscientious: obedient to conscience, scrupulous
He is a conscientious worker and always does his duty.

Divers: several; sundry
Divers men tried to solve the problems
Diverse: Marked different or unlike
Their views were diverse, as diverse as the East and West.

Beneficial: advantageous
Fresh air and the good food are beneficial to the health.
Beneficent: doing good; kind
A beneficent king wins the hearts of his subjects.

Childish: is used in a bad sense and suggests such as silliness, foolishness and weakness.
Your talk is becoming childish
Child - like: is used in a good sense and suggests such as innocence, simplicity and trustfulness
Her child-like innocence appealed to all.

Calender: The calender has gone out of order
Roller machine for pressing and smoothing cloth or paper
Calendar: Please consult the calendar and tell me on what day
Deepawali falls: List of days, week's months, of a particular year.

Eminent: He is an eminent scholar of Sanskrit. Of great repute
Imminent: there is an danger of the war breaking out. Events, specially dangers, likely to come or happen soon.

Formally: The proposal has not yet been made. In accordance with rules, customs conventions
Formerly: Dr. Bhandari was formely a professor of electrical engineering. Previously

Honorary: Sri Govind Prasad is working as an Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce

Holding office without remuneration

Honorable: He retired after rendering service to the nation for 30 years. Worthy of respect

Loose: The dog is too dangerous to be left free, not held

Lose: he like wearing loose trouser.

Not closing fitting

Momentary : Many decisions taken in life are of only importance
Lasting for a moment, short lived

Momentous: The chairman said that at the next meeting some momentous decisions would be taken and so he would like all members to be present

Stationery: The office manager occasionally carries out a physical verification of stationery items in stock

Articles use in connection with writing

Stationary: The sun is stationary body and the earth revolves round it
Not moving fixed

Verbal: He sent me a verbal message that he will reach the office half an hour before the meeting.

Spoken, not written

Verb ose: a verbose style leads to vagueness in communication. Using more words than necessary

Zealous: For rural development we need an army of Zealous workers. Full of enthusiasm

Jealous: He is jealous of his colleague's promotion. Full of envy.

Underline the correct word out of those in brackets:

His paintings show that he is a great (artist, artisan).

Our teacher does not believe in (corporal, corporeal)

punishment. He disliked his (childish, child like) habits.

Would you mind just (checking, chequing) these figures for me?

I'd like (complement, compliment) you on your excellent taste in clothes.
They have written a very (practical, practicable) grammar and
composition book. Cross-examination failed to (elicit, illicit) any useful
information.

All civilized nations now believe in the (human, humane) treatment of
prisoners. He is an (eminent, imminent) scientist.

The smog (affects, effects) our lungs and has an unpleasant effect on
the skin. Try to (adopt, adapt) your language to the speech of
community.

The crops have suffered from the long (drought,
draught). A judge must be (uninterested,
disinterested) in a case.

He is honest (beside, besides) being hard working.

He is very (conscious, conscientious) worker and always does his duty.

I think it is very (particular, peculiar) for a young man to use perfumed stationery,
stationary) for his letter