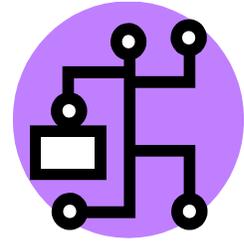


## Quick Tip of the Week

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### Did you know . . .

The most common errors found in student writing are the misspelling or misuse of words. A spelling error is quick enough to catch (especially if you use spell-check on your computer) but knowing when you have used the wrong word is harder to do because your computer will not warn you about this if it is spelled right.



In fact, most errors involving misused word are the result of using an incorrect **homonym**. What is a homonym, you ask? I'm glad you asked, actually. A homonym, also referred to as a **homophone**, is when words sound the same despite that fact that they are spelled differently *and* have different meanings; such as a **piece** of toast or **peace** on Earth. Some words however, sound the same and are spelled the same but they have different meanings; such as a **bark** from a dog and the **bark** on a tree. Now you see how it can be so easy to confuse some of these words and make minor errors on a paper that can really baffle your readers.

### Some other examples of misused homonyms are:

**Affect-Verb** to produce a change in; to act on/**Effect-Noun** result or consequence

**Allowed**-to be given permission to do something/**Aloud**-vocal, to make an audible sound

**Already**-by this or that time/**All ready**-Everyone is ready

**Clothes**-something you wear as attire/**Close**-to stop or obstruct an entrance

**Farther**-used for greater physical distance/**Further**-used for a greater degree

**Threw**-past tense of throw; to physically lob something/**Through**-in at one end and out the other; move past or beyond something

**Waste**-to consume or spend uselessly/**Waist**-the part of the body between the ribs and the hips

**Now for some commonly misspelled words:**

**A lot-** This is always **TWO** words. Put it together and it is misspelled!

**Embarrass-** Two R's and two S's. How embarrassing to get this wrong.

**Library-** Also has two R's, but not in the same place.

**Restaurant-** Often misspelled because the U is usually put in the wrong place.

**Weird-** I before E except after C, right? Nope, every rule has an exception and this is one of them.  
Weird, huh?

For a list of many other commonly misused homophones and the 100 most commonly misspelled English words, please come by the Advocacy Center for a print out of both of these handouts!

<http://infortrac.thomsonlearning.com>  
[www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)