

SOME WORDS

Rebecca Sitton's
VOCABULARY
MINI-COURSE SERIES
FOR
Upper Grade Wordsmiths

ARE
OFTEN CONFUSED

This word-skill strategy book belongs to:

_____ and it cannot be duplicated for anyone else, at any time, for any reason...it's all mine.

This page begins your alphabetical reference of often-confused words—the first fifteen pages of this book. Use the first set of words as your example to complete the sets that follow. Notice that the *use of the words* is described—they are not dictionary definitions. Your descriptions should make clear how the words in each set are used and how they differ.

1. abridge

to shorten or condense something—an *abridged* novel

bridge

something that connects things, like the two eyepieces in glasses

2. accede

exceed

3. accent

ascent

assent

4. adapt

adept

adopt

5. advice

advise



Schools adopt rules to create a safe, clean, comfortable environment for learning. Select one rule students often elude. Write to the school staff to advise them why the rule should be changed. Then write a response from the staff's perspective to justify the rule. Next, become the mediator and propose a written solution, perhaps a rule adaptation that bridges the two points of view and promotes assent.



BY THE WAY Some words may be in the dictionary, but that doesn't mean they're the best choices to use in your writing. Stay away from these: *ahold*, *alright*, and *ain't*. Instead of *ahold*, use either two words or one: **Get a hold of this!** or **Get hold of this!** Instead of *alright*, use *all right*. Never use *ain't*. And don't be confused: *alot* is not a word. It's always two words—use *a lot*.

Choose one in each set by marking the box.

1. Which judge would you consider the more veracious?
 At the trial, Judge Brown was completely disinterested.
 At the trial, Judge Green was completely uninterested.
2. Which diners had previously met?
 Princess Isabella was formerly introduced to King Dow at the annual buffet.
 The winning team's pitcher was formally introduced to the president of her fan club at the annual buffet.
3. Which invitation are you confident is sweeter, more respectful?
 Mother is inviting the grandparents to desert now.
 The grandparents are inviting Mother to dessert now.
4. Which would your teacher be more likely to advise you to cease?
 I quietly called my classmates names.
 I quietly called my classmates' names.
5. Which is likely to be a credible magician?
 Miss Black adeptly embellished her presentation with continual allusions.
 Miss Blue adeptly embellished her presentation with continual illusions.
6. Which son is choosing to take advantage of his father's power and influence?
 Mick casually flouts his father's authority.
 Mack casually flaunts his father's authority.
7. Which canine probably lacks the attributes of a commendable bloodhound?
 Duke smelled badly.
 Rover smelled bad.
8. Which statement is the teacher more likely to say to the class?
 Remember to bring your book report to school tomorrow!
 Remember to take your book report to school tomorrow!



Please explain in writing why each of your selections is the best choice. Include clarification of the meanings of the two statements in your explanation.

Your adeptness with the words in your *Often-Confused Words Reference*, pages 1-15, will likely show continual progress as you ingeniously devise ways to solve this comprehensive crossword.

ACROSS

4. self-assured; opposite of insecure
8. finished, complete, done
9. opposite of loud
11. opposite of tender
12. not good
16. condense or shorten something, as in a novel
17. opposite of win
18. Yesterday was windier than today; there is _____ wind today.
19. fib
20. guidance, recommendation, suggestion
25. well-known, famous, renowned
26. healthy; feeling good
27. to ban offensive content
28. probable
29. to grasp or take hold of something quickly and firmly
30. third person past tense of *to be*
31. to make sure that something will happen

34. read or examine something
35. to place something
39. at last
42. stop, terminate, come to an end
43. fully and clearly expressed
45. secret, clandestine
46. garbage, trash
47. opposite of earlier
48. abandon

DOWN

1. sanctuary, safe haven
2. purpose
3. chase after
4. believable
5. My friend has five caps. I only have three. I have _____ caps than my friend.
6. a farm that produces milk and milk products
7. supper
8. opaque, muddy, murky
10. select
11. after that, subsequently, next

13. to scatter or distribute something over a wide area
14. two moving objects hitting each other; crash
15. come before
16. to adjust oneself to different conditions
21. about to happen
22. enclose, encase, wrap
23. official count or survey of a population
24. act of climbing or traveling up
27. informal
31. difficult to find or catch
32. Mom asked me to _____ the table before dinner.
33. to lift something or someone up
36. to make an indirect reference
37. decline, drop, fall
38. to inform
40. extreme, powerful, concentrated
41. opposite of former
44. selected, picked



Sixteen of the answer words in the puzzle are homophones. Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. List the crossword homophones in alphabetical order. Next to each, write its partner(s). Two of these homophone sets are triads, that is, there are three members. Identify them. Then find and write more homophone triads—keep expanding your collection until you exceed thirty sets! You can do it!



BY THE WAY Two of the answer words in the puzzle are homographs. Homographs are words that are spelled the same but have different pronunciations and meanings. Homophones and homographs are subsets of homonyms. A homonym is a word that is spelled (homograph) or pronounced (homophone) the same as one or more other words but has a different meaning.

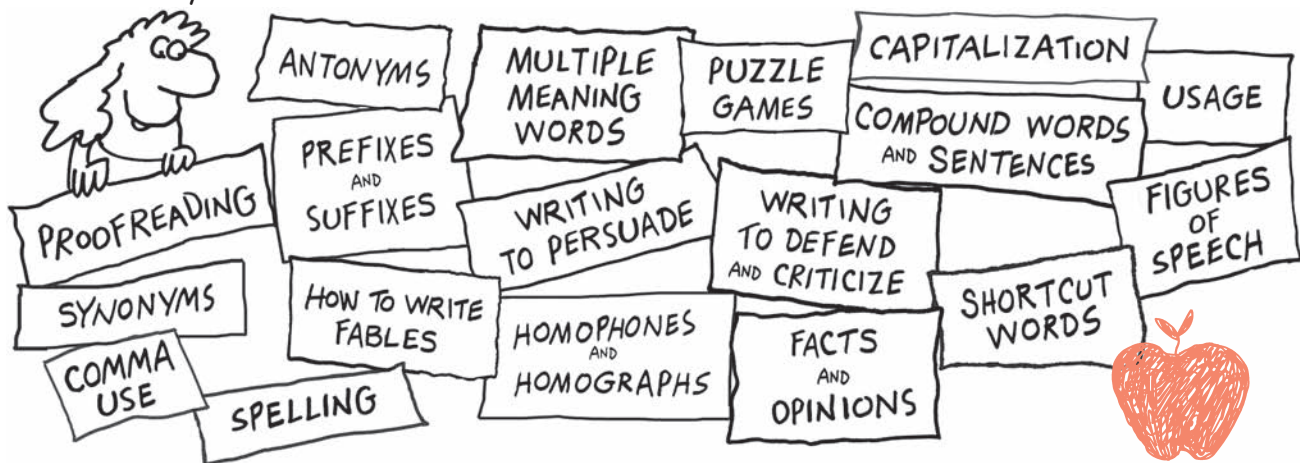
Students,

Here is why this vocabulary-building book is a good one for you. In every subject you study, there are words. The more words you know, the easier these subjects become and the easier it is to learn new things. Word power pays off!

Over the years, scientific studies have been done in classrooms like yours. The studies prove that students who know and understand the most words do the best in school. Often, they do better their whole life. And you can learn words!

Some words are often confused. In this mini-course, you work with these words to differentiate them. Watch for these words as you read, listen for these words when people speak. Now that you know the meanings and uses of these words, you may find that there are times when these words are misused! But you won't be making these mistakes—your mini-course helped make sense of these words!

As you learn about these often confused words, other word skills are woven into the lessons I've created for you. You'll make discoveries about—



You can write to me. I'd like to hear from you. I live in Arizona and, like you, continue to learn more about words every day. It is a lifelong hobby!

Rebecca

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PS Check www.sittonspelling.com for more books in this vocabulary mini-course series.