macmillan education

WORDS LIKELY TO BE CONFUSED



Similar Sounding Words

The **English language** has certain confusing words. You may come across two words that you think have the same root word, but those words will be different in meaning.



Examples of such words are:

apposite vs opposite

- The twins are standing opposite each other. (here, *opposite* means in front of)
- This is not an apposite time to visit them. (here, *apposite* means appropriate)

Some More Examples

- credible vs credulous
  I don't think her story is very credible.
  (here, *credible* means believable)
  You must not be so credulous that you can be easily deceived.
  (here, *credulous* means inclined to believe)

- momentary vs momentous
  Luckily, her bad temper was only momentary.
  (here, *momentary* means short-lived)
  This win is a momentous one for the team.
  (here, *momentous* means very important)

- tenor vs tenure
  I don't want to jinx this smooth tenor of my life.
  (here, *tenor* means prevailing course)
  The school principal's tenure is that of two years.
  (here, *tenure* means period of holding)



Your Turn to Try

Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. The dance partners (compliment/complement) each other well.
2. Is there a (difference/deference) between the two vegetables?
3. Make sure you get yourself vaccinated from all kinds of (deceases/diseases).
4. My speech was (proceeded/preceded) by the chief guest's speech which was the last event on the itinerary.