Commonly Confused Words

They’re vs. There vs. Their
“They’re” is a contraction of the words *they are*, “there” is an adverb describing a location or is used as an exclamation, and “their” is possessive.
- *There!* Those cats over *there* are *theirs*, and *they’re* purring.

To vs. Too vs. Two
“To” is a preposition, “too” is an adverb meaning *also*, and “two” refers to the number.
- *Do you want* to *go to* the movie *too*? It starts at *two*.

Affect vs. Effect
“Affect” is usually a verb, but “effect” is usually a noun.
- Rain is the *effect* of clouds releasing water. When I accidentally stepped into a muddy puddle, the rain *affected* my shoes.

Accept vs. Except
“Accept” means to agree to take something, but “except” means excluding something.
- I have been *accepted* for the job! It is exciting, *except* I am not looking forward to moving all of my things to the new office.

Bare vs. Bear
“Bare” refers to something basic or naked, but “bear” refers to the animal or means to tolerate.
- The trees are *bare* in the winter. I can hardly *bear* the cold. Oh, look! A *bear*.

Loose vs. Lose
“Loose” is an adjective or verb meaning something is unsecured, but “lose” is a verb meaning something cannot be found.
- *If your lanyard is loose*, you could *lose* your key.

Then vs. Than
“Then” is an adverb referring to time, but “than” is a conjunction and preposition used for comparing two things.
- *I would rather stay home than do errands on my day off*, so I quickly went to the store and *then* returned home.