

27 Words you may confuse

This unit looks at words which are easy to mix up.

A Similar sounds

quite/quiet

This book is **quite** good. (= not bad) → quite good → good
My bedroom is very **quiet**. (= silent / no noise)

lose/loose

A: Why do I always **lose** my keys!
B: Here they are.
A: Oh, thank you!



If you **lose** something, you do not know where it is / you can't find it.

These trousers are very **loose**. (= loose means they are not tight, because they are too big)



fell/felt

Fell is from **fall/fell/fallen**.
Yesterday I **fell** and broke my arm.
Felt is from **feel/felt/felt**.
I **felt** ill yesterday, but I feel OK today.



cooker/cook

This **cooker** costs £500. (= the thing you cook on)
He is a very good **cook**. (= the person who cooks)

B Similar or related meanings

lend/borrow

If you **lend** something, you *give* it.
If you **borrow** something, you *get* it.
Sam wants a bicycle:



Do you want to borrow it?

SAM: Will you **lend** me your bicycle? (= you *give* it to me for one day/an hour, etc.)
or Can I **borrow** your bicycle? (= I *get* it from you)

RITA: Yes, take it.

SAM: Thanks.



check/control

The passport officer **checked** my passport. (= looked at it)
The mouse **controls** the computer. (= tells it what to do)

C Other words often mixed up

In English the **afternoon** is from about 12 o'clock till 5 or 6 p.m.

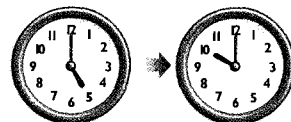
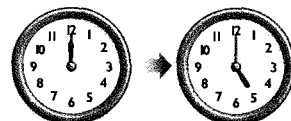
The **evening** is from 5 or 6 p.m. until about 9 or 10 p.m.

After 9 or 10 p.m. it is the **night**.

They're **waiting** for the bus.

I **hope** I pass my exams. (= I really want to pass)

I have not studied; I **expect** I'll fail my exams. (= it's probable)



Exercises

27.1 Fill the gaps with words from A opposite. The first letter is given.

- 1 Please be *quiet*. The baby is sleeping.
- 2 If you l..... your passport you must call the Embassy.
- 3 I f..... tired this morning, but I am OK now.
- 4 We are going to buy a c..... for our new kitchen.
- 5 She f..... and broke her leg. She had to go to hospital.
- 6 It's q..... cold today.
- 7 These shoes are very l..... I need smaller ones.
- 8 My sister is a good c..... I love eating at her house.

27.2 Put a tick in the right box for each word. Look at the example.

<i>word</i>	<i>sounds like?</i>	<i>yes (✓)</i>	<i>sounds like?</i>	<i>yes (✓)</i>
lose	juice		shoes	✓
loose	juice		shoes	
quite	right		higher	
quiet	right		higher	

27.3 Answer these questions.

- 1 What does a mouse do to a computer? It *controls it*.
- 2 What does the passport officer do to your passport? He/She
- 3 If you want to use someone's camera for two hours, what do you say? Can I
- 4 What do you say to someone at 3 p.m.? Good
- 5 What do people do at a bus stop? They
- 6 What do you say to a friend if you need £1 for the phone? Can you
- 7 What do you say if someone makes too much noise? Please be

27.4 Answer these questions for *yourself*.

- 1 Are you expecting any visitors today?
- 2 What do you hope to do with this book?
- 3 Do you borrow things from your friends? What things?
- 4 Would you lend your best friend £200?

You can find other words that are often confused in these units in this book:

Do and make	Units 5 and 6
Take and bring	Units 8 and 9
Say and tell	Unit 13
Speak and talk	Unit 13
Rob and steal	Unit 57