

## CHAPTER 2

# Words Often Confused II

loose, 1	past, 16	than, 31
lose, 2	personal, 17	their, 33
marital, 3	personnel, 18	then, 32
martial, 4	plain, 19	there, 34
medal, 5	plane, 20	they're, 35
metal, 6	principal, 21	weak, 36
miner, 7	principle, 22	weather, 38
minor, 8	quiet, 23	week, 37
moral, 9	quite, 24	whether, 39
morale, 10	shone, 25	who's, 40
nauseated, 11	shown, 26	whose, 41
nauseous, 12	stake, 27	your, 42
naval, 13	stationary, 29	you're, 43
navel, 14	stationery, 30	
passed, 15	steak, 28	

Continue as in the previous chapter. Study the homonyms at the top of each frame. They're there to be studied, not admired, so notice their differences.

As always, be sure to cover the answers in the left-hand column until you have completed the frame. (If you peek before you write, you won't reach the peak of your potential.)

COVER THIS STRIP ▼



## EXERCISES

- loose, lose
  - loose
  - lose
  - lose, loose
  - lose
  - lose, loose
  - loose
- loose (rhymes with *goose*): not tight; unfastened.  
2. lose: to suffer a loss.
  - The goose is *lo* \_\_\_\_\_! We must not *lo* \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - In time of war a *lo* \_\_\_\_\_ tongue can cause us to *lo* \_\_\_\_\_ a troopship.
  - When I \_\_\_\_\_ weight, my pants hang \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Not only did I \_\_\_\_\_ the fight, but I may also \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ tooth.
  - The word *goose* rhymes with the word *l* \_\_\_\_\_.
- marital
  - marital
  - martial
  - martial
  - marital
  - marital
  - marital
  - marital
3. marital: pertaining to marriage.  
4. martial: pertaining to war.
  - "Thanks to my husband for three years of *mar* \_\_\_\_\_ bliss," said Mrs. Roe on her golden anniversary.
  - Will nations abolish *mar* \_\_\_\_\_ conflict or will *mar* \_\_\_\_\_ conflict abolish nations?
  - Love one another, if you want \_\_\_\_\_ happiness.
  - Wagner's "Wedding March" is \_\_\_\_\_ music; "Marine's Hymn" is \_\_\_\_\_ music.
- medal
  - medal
  - metal
  - medal
  - medal
  - metal
  - medal
  - metal
5. medal: a decorative award for a distinguished act.  
6. metal: a substance such as silver, tin, or steel.
  - Goering wore many a *me* \_\_\_\_\_ on his uniform and probably on his pajamas.
  - Gold is a precious *me* \_\_\_\_\_, and Olympic winners are awarded a gold *me* \_\_\_\_\_. Those in second place are awarded a silver *me* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ben's mouth, with its \_\_\_\_\_ fillings, looks like mother lode country.
  - I was to receive a \_\_\_\_\_ for being Most Careful Driver, but on the way I hit a \_\_\_\_\_ post.

7. **miner**: somebody who works in a mine.
8. **minor**: somebody who is below legal age; of lesser importance.
- miner ■ "Gold! I found gold!" whispered the dying *min* \_\_\_\_\_.
- miner, minor ■ The old *mi* \_\_\_\_\_ sang in a *mi* \_\_\_\_\_ key about a goat.
- minor ■ A young draftee complains, "As a \_\_\_\_\_ I can die for my country, yet as a \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot vote."
- minor ■ At the end of a hard day a coal \_\_\_\_\_ does not look like Snow White. However, that to him is of \_\_\_\_\_ importance.

## QUIZ

Write the letter that indicates the best definition.

- |        |                |                                 |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. (c) | ( ) 1. minor   | a. iron, tin, etc.              |
| 2. (f) | ( ) 2. medal   | b. untied; not bound together   |
| 3. (e) | ( ) 3. martial | c. a youth; less important      |
| 4. (g) | ( ) 4. miner   | d. to suffer a loss             |
| 5. (b) | ( ) 5. loose   | e. concerning war               |
| 6. (h) | ( ) 6. marital | f. a decoration, as for heroism |
| 7. (a) | ( ) 7. metal   | g. a mine worker                |
| 8. (d) | ( ) 8. lose    | h. concerning marriage          |

9. **moral** (mor'əl): *Adjective*—virtuous; of good character, as in "a moral, law-abiding family"; *virtual*—"a moral victory." *Noun*—the lesson in a story.
10. **morale** (mər-al'): *Noun*—state of mind as to confidence and enthusiasm.
- morale ■ After ten losses our team was low in *mor* \_\_\_\_\_, and this tie was like a *mor* \_\_\_\_\_ victory.
- moral ■ Some people are *mo* \_\_\_\_\_ only because they've never been tempted.
- moral ■ A pox on any film of violence whose only \_\_\_\_\_ is "Shoot first!"
- morale ■ Malaria can damage one's \_\_\_\_\_.

morale  
moral

- High \_\_\_\_\_ is desirable, but to succeed you also need talent, skills, and \_\_\_\_\_ character.
11. **nauseated**: sickened; disgusted; ill at the stomach. "Those unhappy people at the ship rail are *nauseated*."
12. **nauseous**: sickening; disgusting; causing to vomit. "The overripe fruit was rotting and *nauseous*."
- nauseous ■ Disgusting things are *nau* \_\_\_\_\_. People sickened by such things are *nau* \_\_\_\_\_.
- nauseated ■ Several strikers were *na* \_\_\_\_\_ when struck by a stinkbomb with an extremely *na* \_\_\_\_\_ odor.
- nauseous ■ The contaminated salmon at "Hepatitis Hotel" was \_\_\_\_\_, and several members of the wedding party were \_\_\_\_\_.
- nauseated ■ Norma was \_\_\_\_\_ to see the baby seals clubbed to death. "What a \_\_\_\_\_ sight!" she moaned.
- nauseous
13. **naval**: pertaining to a navy.
14. **navel**: umbilicus; "belly button."
- naval ■ In 1588 England won a great *nav* \_\_\_\_\_ victory.
- naval ■ One sailor on the *na* \_\_\_\_\_ vessel was stripped to the waist and scratching his *na* \_\_\_\_\_.
- navel ■ An orange that has a scar on it like a human \_\_\_\_\_ is called a \_\_\_\_\_ orange.
- naval ■ After a lengthy parade honoring our \_\_\_\_\_ fleet, one flagbearer complained of an enlarged \_\_\_\_\_.
15. **passed**: went by (verb, past tense of *pass*). "The gassy truck *passed* the joggers."
16. **past**: beyond; earlier; an earlier period. (*Past* is not a verb.) "During the *past* minute, six gassy trucks have gone *past* the joggers."
- passed ■ Tony *pa* \_\_\_\_\_ the tavern. (Here Tony is the subject of a missing verb, and the verb ends in *ed*.)
- past ■ Tony walked *pa* \_\_\_\_\_ the tavern. (Here Tony is the subject of the verb *walked*, and the missing word is not a verb.)

past  
passed  
past  
passed  
past  
passed

- Some years in the *p* \_\_\_\_\_ Tom wanted to be a barber. He took a licensing test and *p* \_\_\_\_\_ by a hair.
- The bullet screamed \_\_\_\_\_ my ear, and I heard it twice: first, when it \_\_\_\_\_ me, and then when I \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- At half- \_\_\_\_\_ ten Mary bid six spades, and I \_\_\_\_\_.



### QUIZ

Circle the choice that results in the more acceptable sentence.

navel  
past  
morale  
moral  
nauseated

1. At the deli a caraway seed got lodged in Art's [naval / navel].
2. Every boy [past / passed] five is told he'll be president, and the threat is bad for his [moral / morale].
3. Except for the orgies, they were [moral / morale] citizens.
4. Sue ate too much health food and became [nauseous / nauseated].

personnel  
personal  
personal  
personnel  
personal  
personnel, personal  
personnel

17. **personal:** *Adjective*—private. "It's a *personal* problem."
18. **personnel** (accent on *nel*): the people employed in a business. "Miss Boe is in charge of *personnel*."
  - Any business can succeed if the *per* \_\_\_\_\_ take a *per* \_\_\_\_\_ interest in their work.
  - I made a *p* \_\_\_\_\_ application for a job at the mortuary, but the *p* \_\_\_\_\_ manager said business was dead.
  - My \_\_\_\_\_ opinion is that when the head of \_\_\_\_\_ calls me a nerd, he's getting too \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our office \_\_\_\_\_ have gear trouble: They talk in high and think in low.

plain  
plane  
plain

19. **plain:** *Adjective*—clear; common looking. *Noun*—a prairie.
20. **plane:** *Noun*—an airplane; a flat, two-dimensional surface.
  - We need *pla* \_\_\_\_\_ talk between nations, not a *pl* \_\_\_\_\_ loaded with bombs.
  - The rain in Spain fell on the grassy *pl* \_\_\_\_\_.

plane  
plain  
plane, plain  
plain  
plain

- Our baby, Wayne, born on a speeding \_\_\_\_\_, looks rather \_\_\_\_\_, but we can't complain.
  - Gus studied \_\_\_\_\_ geometry, and the \_\_\_\_\_ fact is that he didn't like it.
  - Abraham Lincoln was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and he used \_\_\_\_\_ words.
21. **principal:** main; head of a school; chief actor or doer; a capital sum. "Spend the interest and save the *principal*"—that was the *principal* lesson that the school *principal* taught us."
  22. **principle:** a rule of action or conduct. (Note that *principle* and *rule* both end in *le*.) "Isaac Newton worked out the *principle* of gravitation."

principle  
principal  
principal  
principal  
principle  
principle  
principle  
principle

- The professor explained a basic *prin* \_\_\_\_\_ of thermodynamics. (Refers to a *rule*.)
- The *prin* \_\_\_\_\_ cause of divorce is marriage.
- The high school *pr* \_\_\_\_\_ played the *pr* \_\_\_\_\_ role in the faculty comedy.
- Jane Pittman was a woman of lofty \_\_\_\_\_, and that is a \_\_\_\_\_ reason we honor her.
- My \_\_\_\_\_ objection is to speech courses that stress the questionable \_\_\_\_\_, "Say it with sincerity, whether you believe it or not."

quiet, quite

quite  
quiet  
quiet  
quite  
quiet

23. **quiet** (kwī'-ət): silent; silence.
24. **quite** (kwīt): really; entirely.
  - To be *qui* \_\_\_\_\_ is often *qu* \_\_\_\_\_ as important as to talk.
  - Since Albert broke his stereo, our house is *q* \_\_\_\_\_ *q* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The baby is \_\_\_\_\_. Go see what's the matter.
  - Slim told \_\_\_\_\_ a few jokes, but we stifled our laughs and remained \_\_\_\_\_.

# QUIZ

Write the letter that indicates the best definition.

- |        |                  |                                |
|--------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. (f) | ( ) 1. principal | a. silent                      |
| 2. (g) | ( ) 2. plane     | b. private                     |
| 3. (e) | ( ) 3. personnel | c. a prairie; ordinary looking |
| 4. (a) | ( ) 4. quiet     | d. a rule of conduct           |
| 5. (c) | ( ) 5. plain     | e. a staff of employees        |
| 6. (d) | ( ) 6. principle | f. the head of a high school   |
| 7. (b) | ( ) 7. personal  | g. an aircraft                 |
| 8. (h) | ( ) 8. quite     | h. really; entirely            |

25. **shone** (past tense of *shine*): "The sun *shone*."  
 26. **shown** is related to *show*. "I was *shown* the fish."

- shone ■ The moon *sho* \_\_\_\_\_ at night, according to Abner, when we needed it most.
- shown ■ She smoked too much. I was *sho* \_\_\_\_\_ her newborn baby, and it had yellow fingernails.
- shone ■ The pirate's eyes *sho* \_\_\_\_\_ when he was
- shown *sho* \_\_\_\_\_ the treasure chest.
- shown ■ Such a doctor! Break an ankle and you'll be \_\_\_\_\_ how to limp.
- shown ■ The customer was \_\_\_\_\_ twelve pairs of shoes, but suddenly his face \_\_\_\_\_ when he was \_\_\_\_\_ the yellow oxfords.
- shone ■ The candle \_\_\_\_\_ like a good deed in a naughty world.
27. **stake**: a stick or post; something wagered or risked.  
 28. **steak**: a slice of meat or fish.
- stake ■ Joan of Arc was burned at the *st* \_\_\_\_\_.
- stake ■ We have a *st* \_\_\_\_\_ in the future of our nation.
- steak ■ Grandpa ate a fat, oily *s* \_\_\_\_\_, and he doesn't squeak any more.

stake  
stake  
steak  
steak  
steak  
steak

stationery  
stationery,  
stationary  
stationery  
stationary  
stationery  
stationary  
stationary  
stationary

then  
than  
then  
than  
then  
than  
than  
than  
than  
than

- The prospector drove a \_\_\_\_\_ into the ground to \_\_\_\_\_ his claim.
- I used to order a \_\_\_\_\_ rare. Now I order a \_\_\_\_\_ rarely.
- "I'll \_\_\_\_\_ a dollar," muttered the waitress, "that this health nut orders the halibut \_\_\_\_\_."
29. **stationary**: not moving.  
 30. **stationery**: writing paper.
- At Christmas I got six boxes of *sta* \_\_\_\_\_.
- Stanley buys *st* \_\_\_\_\_; then he sits *st* \_\_\_\_\_ in front of his typewriter.
- The word "paper" has an *er* in it, and so does the word \_\_\_\_\_.
- Is that hydrant really \_\_\_\_\_, or did it move out and hit my fender?
- On official \_\_\_\_\_ Clarence confessed: "If an irresistible force hits a \_\_\_\_\_ object, I'm probably the driver."
31. **than** (used in comparisons). "Fido bites harder *than* Rover."  
 32. **then**: at that time. "We were younger and thinner *then*."
- Now and *th* \_\_\_\_\_ Junior loses a tooth.
- The wrestler's nose was flatter *th* \_\_\_\_\_ a bicycle seat.
- Our government operated on a smaller budget \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- The shepherd saw her sweater and \_\_\_\_\_ realized that the wool looked better on the girl \_\_\_\_\_ on the sheep.
- The word \_\_\_\_\_ suggests a comparison; the word \_\_\_\_\_ suggests time.

# QUIZ

Write the letter that indicates the best definition.

- |        |                   |                              |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. (d) | ( ) 1. stationery | a. at that time              |
| 2. (c) | ( ) 2. shown      | b. compared with             |
| 3. (e) | ( ) 3. steak      | c. displayed; exhibited      |
| 4. (g) | ( ) 4. shone      | d. writing paper             |
| 5. (b) | ( ) 5. than       | e. a slice of meat           |
| 6. (h) | ( ) 6. stake      | f. not moving                |
| 7. (a) | ( ) 7. then       | g. was shining               |
| 8. (f) | ( ) 8. stationary | h. a post; something wagered |

33. **their** (possessive). "Their dog has fleas."

34. **there**: in that place. "Sit there and wait."

35. **they're**: they are. "They're sleeping."

their  
they're

- The dentist will have to straighten *th* \_\_\_\_\_ teeth, because *th* \_\_\_\_\_ not going to straighten themselves.

there  
their

- Soon the three wise men arrived *th* \_\_\_\_\_ on *th* \_\_\_\_\_ camels.

they're, their

- The old folks say \_\_\_\_\_ happy in \_\_\_\_\_ merry Oldsmobile.

there  
they're  
their

- The salespeople over \_\_\_\_\_ are live wires. A widow wants a burial suit for her husband, and \_\_\_\_\_ selling her \_\_\_\_\_ best silk suit with two pairs of pants.

36. **weak**: lacking in strength; feeble.

37. **week**: a seven-day period.

week,  
weak

- After a *we* \_\_\_\_\_ of fasting, I was as *we* \_\_\_\_\_ as a baby.

week

- "God created man at the end of the *we* \_\_\_\_\_," says Mark Twain, "when God was tired."

weak  
week

- The strong have oppressed the \_\_\_\_\_, not just for a day or a \_\_\_\_\_ but for centuries.

weak

- "Don't sneer at our coffee," said the waiter. "You, too, will be old and \_\_\_\_\_ some day."

38. **weather**: *Noun*—atmospheric conditions. "Stormy weather!"  
*Verb*—to wear away; to survive.

39. **whether**: if. "He'll decide *whether* to operate."

weather, whether

- We predict the *w* \_\_\_\_\_, but I doubt *w* \_\_\_\_\_ we can control it.

weather

- Fred has a thirty percent chance of becoming a *w* \_\_\_\_\_ forecaster.

whether

- Worries, worries! Rich people must decide \_\_\_\_\_ to drive the Rolls or the Cadillac.

weather, whether

- You'll love Dakota's winter \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ you prefer twenty below or forty below.

whether, weather

- I doubt \_\_\_\_\_ we could \_\_\_\_\_ the rigors of Klondike \_\_\_\_\_.

weather

40. **who's**: who is. "Who's calling, please?"

41. **whose** (possessive). "Whose shoes are these?"

whose  
who's

- Find out *wh* \_\_\_\_\_ car was smashed and *wh* \_\_\_\_\_ to blame. (Hint: Write *who's* only if "who is" would be correct in the blank.)

whose  
who's

- The aged alumni, *wh* \_\_\_\_\_ class reunion this is, are getting together to see *wh* \_\_\_\_\_ falling apart.

who's  
whose

- Mr. Bigmouth wants to know \_\_\_\_\_ marrying \_\_\_\_\_ daughter.

who's

- A girl \_\_\_\_\_ fit as a fiddle should have a beau.

who's  
whose

- "I'd like to catch the actor \_\_\_\_\_ careless," said Hamlet, "and \_\_\_\_\_ spear keeps jabbing me in the third act."

whose  
who's

- The word \_\_\_\_\_ is possessive; the word \_\_\_\_\_ means "who is."

42. **your** (possessive). "Put on *your* gas mask."

43. **you're**: you are. "You're beautiful."

you're, your  
your

- Jason, if \_\_\_\_\_ serious about \_\_\_\_\_ garlic diet, you'll lose two pounds and all \_\_\_\_\_ friends.



you're  
 your  
 you're, your  
 you're  
 your  
 you're, your  
 your  
 you're  
 your  
 your

- Until April 15 yo \_\_\_\_\_ deep in the heart of taxes.
- Wilhelm, \_\_\_\_\_ poems are so sweet that \_\_\_\_\_ making \_\_\_\_\_ readers throw up.
- When \_\_\_\_\_ famous, the public takes an interest in \_\_\_\_\_ sins.
- If y \_\_\_\_\_ going to break y \_\_\_\_\_ leg on y \_\_\_\_\_ motorcycle, don't come running to me.
- "Listen," said Barnum to Tom Thumb, " \_\_\_\_\_ so little that you have to stand on \_\_\_\_\_ chair to brush \_\_\_\_\_ teeth."

## QUIZ

Circle the choice that results in the more acceptable sentence.

1. who's
2. you're
3. there
4. weak
5. weather

1. Sam sang, "I wonder [whose / who's] kissing her now."
2. Read constantly, or [you're / your] wasting time in college.
3. All my friends were [there / their / they're]—both of them.
4. After seven days without water, I was [weak / week].
5. Twenty below zero—that was our warmest [weather / whether].



## REVIEW TEST

Write in full the word that is indicated in brackets.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Find out [who-] toupee fell from the balcony.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Now that I can afford a T-bone [st-], I have no teeth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. To buy on credit is a dangerous [princ-p-].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After a [we-k] my sweatsuit stood up by itself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Getting fired didn't help my [mo-r-l-].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. At a gory movie, I feel [nause-].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Sheila is prettier [th-n] a tax refund.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The homesick soldier sniffed the perfumed [stat-n-ry].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Ulysses came back when twenty years had [pas-].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Hamlet debated [w-th-r] to be or not to be alive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. John Paul Jones won a [na-l]victory.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. An arrow whistled [past / passed] General Custer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Luke sang in [min-r] key of his untrue lover.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Art started at the bottom and stayed [th-r-].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The baby is [qui-]. Go see if he is sick.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. A gangster's bullet hit Nick in the [nav-l].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. A [I-se] tooth is driving me to extraction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. To ask your hostess her age is a bit [pers-n-l].

Write the correct word in full.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Their [marital / martial] life was happy until they left the altar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The solar-powered cars moved when the sun [shone / shown].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. The Martians landed and [there / their / they're] leader saluted a gas pump.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. The tavern won't sell liquor to a [miner / minor].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. If the chute won't open, say [your / you're] prayers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. In a laziness contest, Ken wins the gold [medal / metal].
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Jim's books come in a [plain / plane] wrapper.



## KEY TO REVIEW TEST

Check your test answers with the following key. Deduct 4% per error from a possible 100%.

- |               |              |             |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. whose      | 10. whether  | 19. marital |
| 2. steak      | 11. naval    | 20. shone   |
| 3. principle  | 12. past     | 21. their   |
| 4. week       | 13. minor    | 22. minor   |
| 5. morale     | 14. there    | 23. your    |
| 6. nauseated  | 15. quiet    | 24. medal   |
| 7. than       | 16. navel    | 25. plain   |
| 8. stationery | 17. loose    |             |
| 9. passed     | 18. personal |             |

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ %



## SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

**Class Exercise:** Divide into panel groups. Each group will be responsible for discussing and clarifying a segment of the following list for the benefit of the rest of the class.

- |                       |                                 |                                |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. addition, edition  | 21. council, counsel            | 41. holey, holy                |
| 2. aisle, isle        | 22. costume, custom             | 42. incidence, incidents       |
| 3. alley, ally        | 23. dairy, diary                | 43. knew, new                  |
| 4. allowed, aloud     | 24. dammed, damned              | 44. lessen, lesson             |
| 5. altar, alter       | 25. dear, deer                  | 45. liable, libel              |
| 6. anecdote, antidote | 26. deceased, diseased          | 46. mantel, mantle             |
| 7. angel, angle       | 27. device, devise              | 47. meat, meet                 |
| 8. ascent, assent     | 28. disinterested, uninterested | 48. pail, pale                 |
| 9. bare, bear         | 29. dyeing, dying               | 49. peace, piece               |
| 10. base, bass        | 30. emigrate, immigrate         | 50. picture, pitcher           |
| 11. beach, beech      | 31. envelop, envelope           | 51. pole, poll                 |
| 12. beat, beet        | 32. fair, fare                  | 52. pore, pour                 |
| 13. berth, birth      | 33. flea, flee                  | 53. profit, prophet            |
| 14. board, bored      | 34. flour, flower               | 54. prophecy, prophesy         |
| 15. boarder, border   | 35. forth, fourth               | 55. respectfully, respectively |
| 16. bridal, bridle    | 36. foul, fowl                  | 56. ring, wring                |
| 17. censor, censure   | 37. heal, heel                  | 57. sail, sale                 |
| 18. cereal, serial    | 38. hear, here                  | 58. steal, steel               |
| 19. chord, cord       | 39. hoarse, horse               | 59. summary, summery           |
| 20. coarse, course    | 40. hole, whole                 | 60. threw, through             |