**USAGE ISSUES**

**1) No such word as TOOKEN – the word is TAKEN (past participle – has taken) or TOOK (past)**

**2) The word SEEN has to have a helping verb with it (have seen). Use SAW w/o a helping verb.**

**3) Do NOT use double negative. Ex. I don’t have no pencil. X You should say I have no pencil or I do not have a pencil.**

There aren’t (no, any) life forms on the moon.

The atmosphere (isn’t, is) no good for Earth organisms.

Nobody (can’t, can) breathe on the moon.

There (is, isn’t) no free-moving water there.

Nothing (can, can’t) live on the moon.

Nobody doesn’t like Sara Lee 🡪 EVERYBODY likes Sara Lee.

**4) A, AN (AN is used before VOWEL sounds, such as AN APPLE but A HERO)**

**5) ACCEPT, EXCEPT (ACCEPT is a VERB meaning “to receive.” EXCEPT is a PREPOSITION meaning “leaving out” or “other than.”)**

Please (accept, except) my heartfelt apologies.

I painted my whole face (accept, except) my eyelids.

I really want you to (accept, except) the invitation to my party.

Everyone is invited to the party (accept, except) Don Gato.

**6) ADAPT, ADOPT (ADAPT means “to change.” ADOPT means “to take as one’s own.)**

**7) AFFECT, EFFECT (AFFECT a VERB meaning “to influence.” EFFECT usually a NOUN meaning “a result,” but sometimes a VERB meaning “to bring about” or “to cause.”)**

The success of a country’s privateers could (affect, effect) the outcome of a war.

He suffered no ill (affects, effects) from traveling.

The Declaration of Paris (affected, effected) a change in the status of privateers.

The (affect, effect) of studying could be your passing this test.

The teacher made new rules for the class to (affect, effect) a change in the noise level of students.

Peer pressure can (affect, effect) your decisions.

Watching television into the wee hours of the morning can (affect, effect) your school work.

The (affect, effect) of watching television into the wee hours of the morning can be your sleeping when you should be working.

Watching television into the wee hours of the morning can negatively (affect, effect) your school work.

A mentor tries to (affect, effect) his protégé by giving good advice.

Making students take handwritten notes is a way for teachers to try to (affect, effect) a change in their study habits.

**8) THERE, THEIR, THEY’RE (There = position 🡪there (here, there, everywhere); Their (possessive pronoun); They’re = they are.**

Spectators brought (there, their, they’re) coats to the game because the weather was freezing.

Please put the graded papers over (there, their, they’re) on the desk.

Parents are not happy when (there, their, they’re) children disobey.

Because (there, their, they’re) being so loud, the students will not get recess today.

**9) AGGRAVATE/IRRITATE=** Aggravate means to make something worse; irritate means to annoy.

The woolen sweater (aggravates, irritates) me.

The woolen sweater (aggravates, irritates) my heat rash.

Scratching a mosquito bite (aggravates, irritates) the wound.

A mosquito flying around my ear (aggravates, irritates) me.

My brother used to (aggravate, irritate) me by teasing unmercifully.

I get very (aggravated, irritated) when someone jumps out at me, trying to scare me.

Smoke (aggravates, irritates) my asthma.

**10) ALL READY / ALREADY** – All ready means that everyone/ someone is **ready or prepared** (ADJ)(all the people are ready). – Already as one word means “by or before this time.” (ADV)

Many privateers were (all ready, already) pirates when their ruler granted them legitimacy.

Do you have your suitcases (all ready, already) packed?

The students were (all ready, already) for the field trip.

**11) ALL RIGHT / ALRIGHT** = Alright is SUBSTANDARD. Always use all right as two words for academic writing.

**12) REGARDLESS / IRREGARDLESS** = Irregardless is NOT a word! Always use REGARDLESS in academic writing.

(Regardless, Irregardless) of what I feel, I still have to do what my boss tells me.

**13) ALL TOGETHER / ALTOGETHER** – All together means “all at once,” but altogether means “completely” or “in all.”

The crew decided to mutiny (all together, altogether).

The captain was (all together, altogether) mistaken.

**14) AMONG / BETWEEN** -- Use AMONG when discussing 3 or more things; use BETWEEN for discussing 2 items.

There is a code (among, between) pirates and privateers.

There is a code (among, between) a pirate and a privateer.

The pay rate for each voyage was determined (among, between) the crew’s leader and the captain.

Teenage girls often swap clothing (among, between) their friends.

**15. ANYWAYS, ANYWHERES, NOWHERES, SOMEWHERES, EVERYWHERES – ARE NOT WORDS.** Use anyway, anywhere, nowhere, somewhere, everywhere.

**16. BESIDE/BESIDES – BESIDE = next to; BESIDES = except/but**

Who (beside, besides) you is planning to be absent.

Place the glass (beside, besides) the plate on the table.

I invited everyone (beside, besides) JJ to the party.

**17. LIE/LAY – LIE means to recline; LAY = to put or to place. Lie down (lie today, lay yesterday, had lain the day before)(Lay the book today, laid it yesterday, had laid the day before)**

(Lay, Lie) the book on the bookshelf.

I need you to (lay, lie) down and take a nap.

I need you to (lay, lie) the baby in the crib.

Please (lay, lie) the folder on my desk.

I want the children to (lay, lie) on their mats.

**18. DUE TO/BECAUSE OF – Use BECAUSE OF in most circumstances.**

**19. NEVER SAY “The reason is because…” Use THAT in place of the word because or just state the reason. Or “I am doing this because…” USING BOTH REASON AND BECAUSE IS REDUNDANT.**

**20. EAGER Vs. ANXIOUS – EAGER means “anticipating or looking forward to something” = positive connotation; ANXIOUS means “worried or dreading” = negative connotation.**

Chris was (eager, anxious) to begin working on his new job.

Samantha was (eager, anxious) about her son’s fever.

**21. PRINCIPAL/PRINCIPLE –PRINCIPAL is your PAL (a person); PRINCIPLE (morality, theory, law)**

We all hope our new (principal, principle) has good (principals, principles).

**22. THEN/THAN --- THEN means TIME; THAN COMPARES something.**

I went to the party, and (then, than) I went home.

I am shorter (then, than) everyone in my family.

**23. NEVER USE OF for HAVE**

I should (of, have) known better (then, than) to tell a lie.

**24. CAN/MAY – CAN means “able to”; MAY asks permission or means “might” or “maybe.”**

My grandson (can, may) count to 1000.

He always asks if he (can, may) use my iPad.

We (can, may) go to the movies if it isn’t raining.

We (can, may) go to the movies if it isn’t raining. (may meaning might)

(Can, may) we go to the movies if it isn’t raining?

(Can, may) you go get me a glass of sweet tea?

(Can, may) you run an errand for me?

You (can, may) play your video game after doing your homework.

(Can, may) I play my video game after doing my homework?

You (can not or may not) go to the movies.

You (can not or may not) go to the movies because you are sick.

You (can not or may not) go to the movies because the car is in the shop.

**25. AWHILE vs. A WHILE – AWHILE is an ADVERB meaning “for a short time”; A WHILE (article and noun) means “a period of time” and usually comes after the preposition FOR.**

Wait for me (awhile, a while).

Listen to this piece of music for (awhile, a while).

**26. AS – Do NOT use this to mean BECAUSE or SINCE.**

Privateering grew (as, because) each European country wanted control.

**27. FARTHER vs. FURTHER – FARTHER refers to distance; FURTHER means “additional” or “to a greater extent or degree.”**

Could you please explain (farther, further)?

Illuminators made (farther, further) discoveries and invented new perspectives in painting.

They discovered how to make some objects appear (farther, further) away than others.

Please move (farther, further) away from her so you will stop talking.

I want you to read (farther, further) in the passage, so that you will gain (farther, further) knowledge.

I want you to run a mile (farther, further) so that you will be (farther, further) prepared for the cross-country track meet.

**28. FEWER/LESS – Use FEWER with COUNTABLE items; Use LESS with quantities that cannot be counted.**

You need to use (fewer, less) colors in your painting.

You need to use (fewer, less) color in your painting.

Factories should make (fewer, less) smoke to help the pollution problem of big cities.

Use (fewer, less) water in that dish next time.

Use (fewer, less) eggs in that dish next time.

Take off your shoes so that you will bring (fewer, less) sand in the house.

I have (fewer, less) grains of sand in my shoes than you do.

I have (fewer, less) sand in my shoes than you do.

**29. LIKE vs. AS --- LIKE is a PREPOSITION and should NOT be use in place of AS to join 2 clauses.**

A smart apprentice was valued (like, as) a prized possession is valued.

A smart apprentice was valued (like, as) a prized possession.

**30. LOOSE vs. LOSE – LOOSE is an adjective and LOSE is a verb meaning “lost from possession.”**

I always (loose, lose) my keys.

His pants were so (loose, lose) that he needed a belt.

**31. PRECEDE/PROCEED – PRECEDE means “to go before,” but PROCEED means “to move or go forward.”**

English I, II, and III (precedes, proceeds) English IV .

The gladiator had been trained carefully (preceding, proceeding) his first fight.

His victory means that he can (precede, proceed) to the next level of contest.

**32. ADVERSE vs. AVERSE – ADVERSE (adj) describes something that is hostile, unfavorable or difficult; many times followed by the word “condition/s.” AVERSE (adj) describes an emotion where someone is opposed to something; usually followed by the word “to.”**

Travis was (adverse, averse) to playing soccer under (adverse, averse) field conditions, such as a wet field.

**33. ALLUDE vs. ELUDE ---ALLUDE means “to refer to.” ELUDE means “to escape.” Both are verbs.**

Carl (alluded, eluded) to rituals the new students did not understand.

Carter did, however, try to (allude, elude) the police when he ran a stop light.

**34. AMOUNT vs. NUMBER = Use AMOUNT when the quantity cannot be counted. Use NUMBER when it can be counted.**

The (amount, number) of money needed for the project is ridiculous.

The (amount, number) of million dollar bills is few.

My parents gave me a tremendous (amount, number) of support during my divorce.

The (amount, number) of paint needed for the porch came to four cans.

The (amount, number) of paint cans needed for the porch came to four.

**35. ANGRY vs. MAD – ANGRY expresses displeasure; MAD describes insanity. Both adj.**

**36. BAD vs. BADLY --- BAD (adj) describes what something is like; BADLY (adv) explains how something is done.**

Stanley’s taste in music wasn’t (bad, badly).

Unfortunately, he treated his musicians (bad, badly).

**37. CENSOR vs. CENSURE – (verbs) CENSOR means “to cut,” “to remove,” or “to repress”; CENSURE means “to disapprove” or “to condemn.”**

Because they wanted to (censor, censure) Connie for attempting to publish controversial content, the editors (censored, censured) her use of certain four-letter words.

Because the athlete showboated on the field, editors (censored, censured) that part of the film and did not broadcast it on television.

**38. COMPLEMENT vs. COMPLIMENT --- COMPLEMENT means “to go well with” or “be compatible to.” COMPLIMENT means “to praise” or “to flatter.”**

His (complement, compliment) sounded sincere.

The belt (complements, compliments) her outfit.

**39. CONSCIENCE vs. CONSCIOUS – CONSCIENCE is the INNER, ETHICAL sense (noun); CONSCIOUS describes a state of awareness or wakefulness (adj).**

The linebacker felt a twinge of (conscience, conscious) after knocking the quarterback (unconscience, unconscious).

You make a (conscience, conscious) effort when you study for a test.

**40. CREDIBLE vs. CREDULOUS – CREDIBLE means “believable.” CREDULOUS means “willing to believe on very little evidence” or “gullible.” Both are adjectives.**

Officer Bricker found Mr. Hutton’s excuse for his speeding (credible, credulous). However, Bricker was known to be a (credible, credulous) police officer, likely to believe any story.

Because he had lied so much and changed his story numerous times, Jordan was not considered to be a (credible, credulous) witness.

**41. DIFFERENT FROM vs. DIFFERENT THAN. In formal writing, use DIFFERENT FROM.**

**42. DISINTERESTED vs. UNINTERESTED. DISINTERESTED means “neutral” or “uninvolved.” UNINTERESTED means “not interested” or “bored.” Both are adjectives.**

Because no one in my family was in that accident but witnessed it, we would be considered (disinterested, uninterested) witnesses.

He was not my type, so I was (disinterested, uninterested) in dating him.

**43. ELICIT vs. ILLICIT—ELICIT is a verb meaning “to draw out” or “bring forth.” ILLICIT is an adj that describes something illegal, prohibited or immoral.**

Some people consider abortion to be (elicit, illicit).

Painting graffiti on the school is an (elicit, illicit) act, and Crimestoppers is offering a reward to (elicit, illicit) the name of the individuals responsible.

When the police arrest someone and interrogate him/her, they try to (elicit, illicit) a confession from the person.

You can get arrested for (elicit, illicit) behavior.

**44. EMINENT vs. IMMINENT – Both are adjectives. EMINENT means “distinguished” and “prominent/well-known.” IMMINENT describes something about to happen or is coming soon.**

Once the class goes over the vocabulary words, students know that the test is (eminent, imminent).

Clint Eastwood is an (eminent, imminent) actor and director.

**45. DO NOT USE ENTHUSED to mean ENTHUSIASTIC.**

**46. FLAUNT vs. FLOUT – FLAUNT means “to show off,” but FLOUT means “to disregard” or “show contempt for” something. Both are verbs.**

To (flaunt, flout) his wealth, Mr. Lin bought a Van Gogh.

(Flaunting, flouting) a gag order, the newspaper published its expose` of corruption in the city council.