

# NYS & CSEA Partnership

## Often Confused Words

### Word

### Definition

|               |                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| accept        | receive willingly, agree        |
| except        | to exclude, leave out           |
| adapt         | to adjust                       |
| adept         | skilled                         |
| adopt         | to take for one's own           |
| adverse       | opposing                        |
| averse        | reluctant                       |
| advice (noun) | recommendation                  |
| advise (verb) | to counsel                      |
| affect (verb) | to influence                    |
| effect (noun) | result, outcome                 |
| effect (verb) | to accomplish or make happen    |
| aid           | to help                         |
| aide          | assistant                       |
| already       | previously                      |
| all ready     | all in readiness                |
| altogether    | entirely                        |
| all together  | in unison, as one               |
| between       | limited to two                  |
| among         | three or more                   |
| capital       | chief, important                |
| Capitol       | official government building    |
| coarse        | rough, unrefined                |
| course        | passage, plan, subject of study |
| device (noun) | an instrument, mechanism        |
| devise (verb) | to invent, create               |
| disburse      | to pay out                      |
| disperse      | to scatter, separate            |
| disinterested | impartial                       |
| uninterested  | not interested                  |
| farther       | refers to distance              |
| further       | additional                      |
| fewer         | not as many (countable)         |
| less          | not as much (non-countable)     |

# Often Confused Words

## Word

formerly  
formally

imply  
infer

ingenious  
ingenuous

insight  
incite

insure  
ensure

intelligent  
intelligible

its  
it's

lose  
loose

moral  
morale

perpetrate  
perpetuate

personal  
personnel

principal  
principle

stationary  
stationery

statue  
statute  
stature

taught  
taut

than  
then

their  
there  
they're

to  
too  
two

## Definition

previously  
in a serious or dignified manner

to suggest indirectly  
to draw a conclusion indirectly

very clever  
candid

understanding  
to arouse to action

to guarantee (financial)  
to guarantee or make certain

possessed of intelligence  
understandable

possessive form of "it"  
contraction for "it is" or "it has"

to misplace  
not fixed tight

referring to ethical conduct  
state of mind, feeling

to do  
to make lasting

individual, private  
staff, employees

chief, main  
fundamental truth, law

permanent  
writing paper

a carved likeness  
a law  
distinguished regard

instructed  
tight, tense

used in comparisons  
refers to time

possessive pronoun  
location, place, indication  
contraction for "they are"

preposition  
also, much  
number