

## Usage and Easily Confused Words

### Exercise 1

#### different vs difference

Different is an adjective meaning not alike or not the same.

Example: I know a different way to the river.

Difference is a noun meaning the way people or things are not alike.

Example: What is the difference between them?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was more than I had expected. He had changed a lot.
2. Those shoes are \_\_\_\_\_ from these. They are bigger.
3. We were more alike than we were \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ between homemade chocolate chip cookies and store bought ones is indescribable.
5. Although the two politicians have very \_\_\_\_\_ points of view on social security, there isn't much \_\_\_\_\_ between them regarding foreign policy.

### Exercise 2

#### patient vs patience

Patient is a noun meaning one under medical care.

Example: The physician will see a patient when medical care is necessary.

Patient is also used as an adjective when describing someone bearing pain or trials without complaint.

Example: My son is constantly telling me that I need to be more patient when I get stuck in traffic.

Patience is a noun meaning the capacity, habit, or fact of being patient.

Example: One must have great patience when working in retail.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is a virtue, so you must learn to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He lost his \_\_\_\_\_ and became extremely im\_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is an important quality to have when considering a career in health care.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was told that he could leave the hospital only on the condition that he check in daily with his doctor.
5. Solving computer problems requires a calm, \_\_\_\_\_ approach.

### Exercise 3

## **negligent vs negligence**

Negligent is an adjective and means marked by neglect.

Example: Pete's negligent supervision of the children nearly turned tragic when one of them fell into the pool.

Negligence is a noun that means a failure to exercise care.

Example: Pete's negligence while babysitting nearly turned tragic when one of the children fell into the pool.

1. He was charged with \_\_\_\_\_ driving.
2. Your \_\_\_\_\_ nearly cost me my life.
3. It is \_\_\_\_\_ parenting when a person leaves a child alone in a locked car.
4. Tom accused his employer of \_\_\_\_\_ when the machine he was operating malfunctioned and caused an injury to his leg.
5. People who try to do too much are often \_\_\_\_\_ of their own physical health.

### **Exercise 4**

#### **advise vs advice**

Advise is a verb and means to give advice or counsel.

Example: As a member of Big Sisters, I try to advise my "little sister" to stay away from drugs.

Advice is a noun and means a recommendation with regard to a course of action.

Example: As much as I care for my "little sister," I don't think my advice is meaningful to her.

1. I went to the counseling center for \_\_\_\_\_ on my class schedule.
2. I was \_\_\_\_\_ (past tense) to take both English 111 and 122.
3. If you want my \_\_\_\_\_, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ you to be prepared to listen to my honest opinion.
4. Her \_\_\_\_\_ meant nothing to me once I learned that she was a liar.
5. My lawyer \_\_\_\_\_ (past tense) me to draw up a living will.

### **Exercise 5**

#### **good vs well**

Good is usually used as an adjective and means of a favorable character or tendency.

Example: She is a good friend.

Well is an adverb and means in a good or proper manner.

Example: The special effects were well done.

Also, well may be used to describe health.

Example: I feel well today.

1. Harry doesn't feel very \_\_\_\_\_ this morning.
2. I'm sure I did \_\_\_\_\_ on my essay.
3. Fran did a \_\_\_\_\_ job on her final essay.
4. I only purchase products of \_\_\_\_\_ quality that are also made in America.
5. It doesn't seem to matter how \_\_\_\_\_ I do financially for people to still see me as lower class.

### Exercise 6

#### choose vs chose

Choose and chose are both verbs having to do with selecting.

Choose is used in the present tense for the first and second person and for future tense.

Example: John will choose a college carefully.

Chose is for the past tense.

Example: Scott chose the Tigers to finish in first place for the division.

1. The Smiths \_\_\_\_\_ to have duck instead of turkey for their celebration.
2. If you had to \_\_\_\_\_ between the two brands, which would you prefer?
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ to save for a longer vacation next year and to stay at home this year.
4. In too many elections, people often believe they are forced to \_\_\_\_\_ between the lesser of two evils.
5. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ to attend classes part time and to work part time as well.

### Exercise 7

#### loose vs lose

Lose is a verb meaning to misplace or to fail to win.

Example: Did you lose your keys again?

Loose is an adjective meaning not tight.

Example: The nut was too loose to keep the bolt in place.

1. These jeans used to be \_\_\_\_\_ before I gained 15 pounds.
2. A dog on the \_\_\_\_\_ in a neighborhood could be threatening to young children.
3. If you gamble without caution, you could \_\_\_\_\_ more than you can afford.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ behavior is also seen as too promiscuous.
5. Jack did not believe he could \_\_\_\_\_ the election to someone as incompetent as his opponent.

### Exercise 8

#### conscience vs conscious

Conscience is a noun that means a sense of right or wrong.

Example: Julie had a guilty conscience regarding her betrayal.

Conscious is an adjective meaning awake or aware of.

Example: Dan was conscious of the time limits this new deadline imposed.

1. After his fall, William was not \_\_\_\_\_ for several minutes.
2. I truly believe that you're not \_\_\_\_\_ of the hurt you cause with your careless words.
3. Diane's \_\_\_\_\_ did not bother her after she fought with her mother.
4. When driving alone at night, it's wise to be \_\_\_\_\_ of your surroundings.
5. My \_\_\_\_\_ would not let me do anything but tell the truth.

### Exercise 9

#### idea vs ideal

Idea is a noun meaning a thought.

Example: The teacher's idea of too much homework was different than the students.

Ideal is an adjective meaning thought of as perfect.

Example: Julie was Sam's ideal girlfriend because they were always honest with one another.

Ideal may also be used as a noun meaning a conception of something.

Example: World peace is an ideal many work for.

1. Annie's off-hand remark gave me an \_\_\_\_\_ for my next story.
2. If we lived in an \_\_\_\_\_ world, then no one would be poor or lonely.
3. It was Sean's \_\_\_\_\_ to move the picture closer to the fireplace.
4. Part time work for full time pay is an \_\_\_\_\_ that many laborers wish for.
5. Whose \_\_\_\_\_ was it to put pepper in the salt shaker?

### Exercise 10

#### real vs really

Real is an adjective meaning true or genuine.

Example: Her diamond ring is real, not a cubic zircon.

Really is an adverb meaning truly or in reality.

Example: "Yes, Virginia. There really is a Santa Claus."

1. Todd was trying to act \_\_\_\_\_ tough in front of the other guys.
2. I wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ sure if I wanted to go out with him, but in the end, I did.
3. The painting was such an obvious copy that even a nonartist like me could see that it wasn't a \_\_\_\_\_ Picasso.
4. My grandfather's diagnosis of lung cancer made the health risks of smoking all too \_\_\_\_\_ to me.
5. Kim has to work \_\_\_\_\_ hard in order to get good grades.

### **Answers**

#### Exercise 1:

1. difference      2. different      3. different      4. difference      5. different, difference

#### Exercise 2:

2. patience, patient      2. patience, patient      3. patience      4. patient      5. patient

#### Exercise 3:

1. negligent      2. negligence      3. negligent      4. negligence      5. negligent

#### Exercise 4:

1. advice      2. advised      3. advice, advise      4. advice      5. advised

Exercise 5:

1. well      2. well      3. good      4. good      5. well

Exercise 6:

1. chose      2. choose      3. chose      4. choose      5. chose

Exercise 7:

1. loose      2. loose      3. lose      4. loose      5. lose

Exercise 8:

1. conscious      2. conscious      3. conscience      4. conscious      5. conscience

Exercise 9:

1. idea      2. ideal      3. idea      4. ideal      5. idea

Exercise 10:

1. really      2. really      3. real      4. real      5. really