The following words sound similar or the same and are easily confused in writing. The words are often different parts of speech, so think carefully when you use them. Check your dictionary when in doubt.

accept (verb); except (preposition) ex: I accept your apology. ex: I like all pasta except linguine.

affect (verb); effect (noun) ex: The weather affects our moods. ex: The research is about the effect of sunlight on people's moods.

its (possessive adjective); it's (it is) ex: The dog scratched its neck. ex: It's a beautiful day.

lose (verb); loose (adjective) ex: She is losing her mind. ex: The coat is too loose for me.

loss (noun); lost (verb, adjective) ex: They had two losses this year. ex: I lost my credit card. ex: That is a lost dog.

past (noun, adjective, preposition); passed (verb); pass (verb) ex: I remember my past. ex: This past year was horrible. ex: He walked past me. ex: She passed the test. ex: I hope I pass this test.

than (comparative); then (adverb) ex: He's shorter than I am. ex: Then he went home.

whose (possessive adjective); who's (who is) ex: We're not sure whose book it is. ex: That’s the woman who's dog died.

worse (comparative); worst (superlative) ex: Robin is worse than I am at skiing. ex: Which flavor is the worst?

your (possessive adjective); you're (you are) ex: Have you done your homework? ex: You think you're funny.