

Tristan O'Malley- Fall 2015- Commonly Misused Word Forms

In English, the same word can have different meanings depending on its use in a sentence. If this is so, then it is said to have changed its **word form**. A word form is how a word appears in writing or speaking. An example is the adjective different. Sometimes, word forms change, which means that the word is changing from one class of words (nouns, adjective, etc.) to another class of words (nouns, adjectives, etc.) An example would be the word difference. When the form of a word changes, its meaning also changes. Let's look at the words 'different' and 'difference'.

Different:

Adjective

- 1) Not the same as another or each other; unlike in nature, form, or quality.
- 2) Distinct; separate.

Difference:

Noun

- 1) A point or way in which people or things are not the same

Notice that both the **meaning** and the **form** of the word have changed. Here is an example of how they would be used in a sentence.

- A difference between my sister and I is my sister is older than I am.
- My sister and I have different ages.

In the first sentence, 'difference' is the subject of the sentence because it is a noun. 'Different' in the second sentence is not the subject of the sentence and is an adjective instead. It modifies the word 'ages.' In many cases, the form of a particular word can be determined by its position in a sentence.

Now that you understand a word can change its form from a noun to an adjective or from an adjective to a noun, pick which of the two word forms should be used in the following paragraph. Use the attached sheet of commonly misused words to help you.

Yesterday, I wrote a letter (to, too) the Athens City (Council, Counsel) asking them to (advise, advice) me about what to do about noisy neighbors. My neighbors like to play loud music late at night and (its, it's) causing me to (lose, loose) sleep. If I'm (to, too) tired to go to class, my grades will be (affected, effected). I concluded by sending my (compliments, compliments) to the chairman and thanking them for any (advice, advice) they could give me. Writing the letter consumed the last of my (stationary, stationery). I put on my bicycle helmet to go to the post office, but it slid off because it was very (lose, loose). I tightened (its, it's) strap and put it on again, because people (compliment, complement) me because of it all the time. At the post office, I saw a sign that read they (accept, except) all letters and packages (accept, except) those that weigh more than five pounds. Thankfully, my letter has a very (difference, different) weight than the listed weight, so I was allowed to send it without a problem. The (difference, different) between my letter and the listed weight is four pounds.

Answer Key

Yesterday, I wrote a letter (to, too) the Athens City (Council, Counsel) asking them to (advise, advice) me about what to do about noisy neighbors. My neighbors like to play loud music late at night and (its, it's) causing me to (lose, loose) sleep. If I'm (to, too) tired to go to class, my grades will be (affected, effected). I concluded by sending my (complements, compliments) to the chairman and thanking them for any (advise, advice) they could give me. Writing the letter consumed the last of my (stationary, stationery). I put on my bicycle helmet to go to the post office, but it slid off because it was very (lose, loose). I tightened (its, it's) strap and put it on again, because people (compliment, complement) me because of it all the time. At the post office, I saw a sign that read they (accept, except) all letters and packages (accept, except) those that weigh more than five pounds. Thankfully, my letter has a very (difference, different) weight than the listed weight, so I was allowed to send it without a problem. The (difference, different) between the weight of my letter and the listed weight is four pounds.

<p>Affect Verb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Have an effect on; make a difference to. 2.) Touch the feelings of (someone); move emotionally 	<p>Effect Noun</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) A change that is a result or consequence of an action or other cause. 2.) The lighting, sound, or scenery used in a play, movie, or broadcast.
<p>Different Adjective</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Not the same as another or each other; unlike in nature, form, or quality. 2.) Distinct; separate. 	<p>Difference Noun</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) A point or way in which people or things are not the same.
<p>Advise Verb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Offer suggestions about the best course of action to someone. 	<p>Advice Noun</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Guidance or recommendations concerning prudent future action, typically given by someone regarded as knowledgeable or authoritative.
<p>Stationery Noun</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Writing paper, especially with matching envelopes. 	<p>Stationary Noun</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Not moving or not intended to be moved.
<p>To Preposition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Expressing motion in the direction of (a particular location). 2.) Identifying the person or thing affected. <p>Infinitive marker</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Used with the base form of a verb to indicate that the verb is in the infinitive, in particular. 2.) Used without a verb following when the missing verb is clearly understood. 	<p>Too Adverb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) To a higher degree than is desirable, permissible, or possible; excessively. 2.) In addition; also.
<p>Accept Verb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Consent to receive (a thing offered). 2.) Believe or come to recognize (an opinion, explanation, etc.) as valid or correct. 	<p>Except Preposition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Not including; other than.
<p>Its Determiner</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Belonging to or associated with a thing previously mentioned or easily identified. 	<p>It's Contraction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) it is 2.) it has
<p>Lose Verb</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Be deprived of or cease to have or retain (something). 2.) Become unable to find (something or someone). 	<p>Loose Adjective</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Not firmly or tightly fixed in place; detached or able to be detached. 2.)

<p>Compliment Verb 1.) Politely congratulate or praise (someone) for something.</p> <p>Noun 1.) A polite expression of praise or admiration.</p>	<p>Complement Noun 1.) A thing that completes or brings to perfection 2.) A number or quantity of something required to make a group complete.</p> <p>Verb 1.) Add to (something) in a way that enhances or improves it; make perfect.</p>
<p>Council Noun 1.) A body of people elected to manage the affairs of a city, county, or other municipal district 2.) An advisory, deliberative, or legislative body of people formally constituted and meeting regularly.</p>	<p>Counsel Noun 1.) Advice, especially given formally 2.) The lawyer or lawyers conducting a case</p> <p>Verb 1.) To give advice (to someone)</p>