

In The Name Of GOD

**Confusable
Words**

123

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■ Ability, capability, capacity

If someone has **ability**, a particular **ability**, or the **ability** to do something, they can do it because they have the skill or the knowledge that is needed to do it. You often use **ability** to say that someone can do something well.

Ex 1: She had the **ability** to explain things clearly and concisely.

Ex 2: The test measures your mathematical **ability**.

Capability refers to the ability of a person; machine etc. to do something, especially something difficult that needs a lot of knowledge, skill, advanced equipment etc.

Ex 1: Man Ray explored the **capabilities** of the camera to their fullest extent.

Ex 2: I can speak French, but simultaneous translation is beyond my **capabilities**.

We use **capacity** especially about a very great ability to do something or to behave in a particular way. **Capacity** is a more formal word than ability.

Ex 1: He has an enormous **capacity** for hard work.

Ex 2: Children have a remarkable **capacity** to learn language.

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■ Able, capable

When you say that someone is **able** to do something you mean that they can do it either because of their knowledge or skill or because it is possible for them to do it.

Ex: Mrs. Thomas is a very **able** teacher.

When you say that someone is **capable** of doing something, you mean either that they have the knowledge and skill to do it if they want or need to, or that they are likely to do it.

Ex 1: Workers are perfectly **capable** of running the organizations which employ them.

Ex 2: I think he's **capable** of loyalty and seriousness.

Ex 3: Bowman could not believe him **capable** of murder.

You normally use “**capable of**” when talking about what something such as a car or machine can do.

Ex: The car was **capable of** 110 miles per hour.

If you describe someone as **able** or **capable**, you mean that they do things well and in an intelligent way. There is little difference between the two words when used in this way.

Ex 1: This very **able** man totally failed to see the possibilities of the telephone.

Ex 2: Newborn babies are more **capable** than was once thought.

■ Account, bill

When you have an **account** with a bank you leave your money in the bank and take it out when you need it.

Ex: My salary is paid into my bank **account**.

Bill is a written list that you should pay that contains the services like meal, electricity, etc. you have used.

Ex: They sent us a **bill** for the work they had done.

■ Advice, advise

Advice refers to an opinion which someone offers you about what you should do or how you should act in a particular situation. **Advice** is a noun that cannot be made plural. **Advice** is pronounced /əd'vaɪs/.

Ex: I need some **advice** on which computer to buy.

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Advise means to give someone advice. **Advise** is a verb. It is pronounced /əd'vaɪz/.

Ex: His doctor **advised** him against smoking.

■ Affect, effect

Affect means to produce a change, for example in the way that something develops or in someone's situation. It is a verb and pronounced /ə'fekt/.

Ex: Scientists are investigating the ways in which climate changes **affect** the ozone layer.

Effect refers to the result of a particular influence. It is a noun and pronounced /ɪ'fekt/.

Ex: The radiation leak has had disastrous **effect** on the environment.

If you **effect** something like a change or a repair, you cause the change to occur or the repair to be done. This is a fairly formal use, and is much less common than the use of **effect** as a noun.

Ex: As a political party they are trying to **effect** a change in the way that we think about our environment.

■ Afflict, inflict

Problems, illness, and misfortunes **afflict** people and cause them to suffer. You can also say that someone is **afflicted** with/by an illness, problem, or misfortune but it's not a deliberate action.

Ex: The country **afflicted** by famine.

On the other hand when people **inflict** things like problems, pain or damage on other people they are deliberately doing something to make them suffer.

Ex 1: Detectives warned that the men could **inflict** serious injury.

Ex 2: These new bullets are capable of **inflicting** massive injuries.

■ Alike, likely

If people or things are **alike** they are similar to each other. If people do the same things they act **alike**.

Ex: My mother and I think and talk **alike**.

Something that is **likely** will probably happen or is probably true.

Ex: Snow showers are **likely** tomorrow.

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■ Alive, living, lively

Someone who is **alive** has not died and their life continues. You use **alive** after a link verb like "be" or occasionally after a noun. You do not use **alive** in front of a noun.

Ex: He must be ninety if he's still **alive**.

A **living** person, animal or plant has life. It is the exact opposite of dead.

Ex: The sun affects all **living** things.

Someone who is **lively** has a lot of energy and is very active.

Ex: Jeff is a **lively** child.

■ Alone, lonely, lone

If someone is **alone** in a place there is nobody with them. They may be happy or sad to be alone.

Ex: He likes being **alone** in the house.

If someone is **lonely** they are sad because they are **alone** or do not have anyone to talk to.

Ex: She gets **lonely** now that all the kids have left home.

Lone is used to talk about the only person or thing in a place or the only person or thing that does something.

Ex: He was a **lone** voice arguing against a reduction in resources.

■ Altogether, all together

Altogether is used:

1) To emphasize that something has done completely or has finished completely.

Ex: An old costume has vanished **altogether**.

2) To emphasize that the way you describe something is completely true.

Ex: The latest problem is **altogether** more serious.

3) To show that you are referring to the total amount.

Ex: There are five people **altogether**.

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4) To make a final statement about several things you have just mentioned.

Ex: Lots of sunshine, wonderful food, and amazing nightlife **altogether** a great vacation.

But you use **all together** to say that a group of people or things are together or do something together, and that none of them is missing.

Ex: The boys play soccer **all together**.

■ Anger, fury, rage

If you confront with something cruel, unfair or unpleasant you feel **anger**.

Ex 1: I think he feels a lot of **anger** towards his father who treated him very badly as a child.

Ex 2: There is growing **anger** among the people against the government.

If you have intense feelings of anger which are hard to control so you feel **fury** or **rage**.

Ex 1: She flew into a **fury** at the suggestion.

Ex 2: His face was red with **rage**.