WORDS THE SPELLCHECK MISSES
These useful words with much-the-same-sound but with different meanings and spellings are often confused in students’ writing. Using them correctly is important in polished writing. Take time to learn and memorise them as spell-checks do not understand the differences.

Accept/except
Affect/effect
Loose/lose
Then/than
There/their/they’re
Weather/whether

Accept gives us the word acceptance. Both are about agreeing.
Except gives us the word exception. Both are about excluding others.

Everyone ............... Sam, brought a pen.
I am happy to ............... your invitation.

The effect (noun meaning result) of the tsunami was disastrous. Hundreds of people were affected (verb, action word) by the tsunami as they lost homes, businesses and lives.

The drought ................. the crops. The ............... Has been that many farmers are in debt.

Loose rhymes with goose. Lose rhymes with ooze.
My ring is ................. I fear I may ............... it.
Your moose is ............... and chasing my goose. Catch your ............... moose so I don’t ............... my goose.

Than is about comparing one thing with another, often used with “more” or “less”.
Then is about what happens next.

We had more rain ............... yesterday. Tomorrow I shall buys seeds ............... plant the carrots.

There is about place. “Put it there!”
Their is about owning something.
They’re is short for they are.

They left ................. hats ................. on the chair. ............... going to have sunburnt noses.
Weather is about the condition of the atmosphere at a particular place at a particular time. Whether refers to options or alternatives.

We will go surfing w...................... the ................. is rainy or not.