

## 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

**A**cccept gives us the word **a**ccceptance. Both are about **a**greeing.  
**E**xcept gives us the word **e**xception. Both are about **e**xcluding others.

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

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The **e**ffect (noun meaning result) of the tsunami was disastrous. Hundreds of people were **a**ffected (verb, **a**ction word) by the tsunami as they lost homes, businesses and lives.

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

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**L**oose rhymes with **g**oose. **L**ose rhymes with **o**oze.  
My ring is ..... I fear I may ..... it.  
Your moose is ..... and chasing my goose. Catch your .....  
moose so I don't ..... my goose.

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**T**han is about **c**omparing one thing with another, often used with "more" or "less".  
**T**hen is about what happens **n**ext.

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

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**T**here is about place. "Put it there!"

**T**heir is about owning something.

**T**hey're is short for **t**hey are.

They left ..... hats ..... on the chair. .... going to  
have sunburnt noses.

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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.

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