

Errors Spell Checkers Do Not Correct and Style Sheet

Chuck Higgins

Dept. Finance/AIMS née CIS
Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles
1 LMU Dr.
Los Angeles, Ca 90045-8385
310 338 7344
USA

Spell checkers in writing programs and communication devices may change a written word to an unintended one and may provide auto completion as well. The writer or reader may note that a piece of work may be free from red (misspelling) or green (grammar/syntax error) underlining, but the wording may not be as intended. Likewise the reverse may be true with the program flagging correctly written text. While dictionaries and lists of spelling demons, homonyms, and homophones exist, the following are a culling of words that spell checkers and auto completion programs may confuse. Each word is associated with a relevant related word to resolve ambiguity, and unlike a dictionary is better regarded as a thesaurus. The pairings are generally alphabetically ordered by the word's sound while yielding to the more common word. Because spell checkers allow multiple generally acceptable spellings, the preferred spelling is presented herein. While casual misuse is understandable, many of the listings herein have been observed as errors in student work, colleague communications, and in the media.

Generally words ending in *-ic* are denotative or characteristic; words ending in *-ical* are connotative or exceptional. Consider these: *comic -al, economic -al, historic -al, theatric -al*, etc., where "*the historical theatric presentation*" is a drama set in the past, but "*the historic theatrical presentation*" is a noteworthy florid oration. On the other hand, there are those that do not easily receive such treatment, e.g. *academic, athletic, ironic*, and *political* (*politic* is *proper* or a verb). Superlatives should be unmodified, but consider from the U.S. Constitution: "*In order to form a more perfect union.*" Preferred spellings exist for: *acknowledgment* and *judgment* (not *-dgement*); *collectible, deductible, convertible* (not *-able*); and *denunciation* and *pronunciation* (not *-nunciation*). Consider the following past tense words with double terminal consonants: [*p*]referred, conferred, deferred, inferred, and cancelled, but traveled.

Thereafter follows a style sheet while noting that different versions exist among various fields and publications. It is offered here recognizing that writing programs often do little to correct notational styles.

abrogation – annulment	approbation – approval
accept – approve	except – exclude, excerpt – portion
access – entrance	excess – extra
acquire – obtain	choir – chorus, quire – paper
acts – performs	ax(e)/-es – lumber tool/-s
ad/-s – marketing	add/-s – increase, adz – ax
addict – dependent	attic – roof
advice – suggestion [noun]	advise – suggest [verb]
affect – change[verb/noun psychology]	effect – outcome[noun]/+
+	cause [verb]
affinity – association	infinity – all, infinitely – unbounded
aid/-e – help/-er	-ade – juice drink suffix
ail – ill	ale – drink
ain't – is not [incorrect]	isn't – is not [correct]
air/-ed – gas/exposed, ear – hearer, arid – dry, err/-ed – mistake/-n	I'll – I will, ill – sick
aisle – passage	a line – straight segment
align – straighten	awl – tool, owl – bird
all – entire	a lot – plenty [not <i>alot</i>]
allot – allocate	alley – small street
ally – friend	

aloft – airborne	aloof – avoid
already – recently	all right – perfect [not <i>alright</i>]
allusion – reference	illusion – unreal
ameliorate – improve,	amulet – charm [noun], emulate – surpass/copy
anatomic – body	atomic – atom
anchor – steadied	anger – infuriate
anima – soul	enema – colon cleansing, enemy – opponent
anonymous – unknown	unanimous – all
appreciate – positive	deprecate – insult, depreciate – decrease
approbation – approval	probation – trial, appropriation – funding
are – be	R
arise/arose – stand/stood [reflexive]	arrive/-s – become/-s
artistic – stylish design	autistic – impairment
as – per,	ass/-es – donkey/butt, asset/-s – value
ascetic – poor	esthetic – art
ask – question	ax(e) – tool
aspire – hope	expire – end
assault – attack	salt – seasoning
assay – analyze	essay – writing, say – speak
astringent – chemical	stringent – strict
ate – eat [past]	eight – 8
attach/-ed – fasten/-ed	attaché – diplomat
attain – achieve	obtain – get
avocation – hobby	vocation – career
awful – astound	offal – rubbish
awry – unplanned	rye – grain, wry – thin/joke
axes – lumber tools	axis – hub
aye – affirmative	I – me, eye – vision
babble – noise	Bible – book, bobble – trinket
back – rear	bake – cook
bail – payment/scoop	bale – package, bill – due
bait – lure	bat – animal/hit, bit/-e – portion/[past]-chew
ball/-ed – sphere/dance/gathered	bawl/-ed – cry/-ied, bald – hairless
banister – railing	barrister – lawyer
bar – rail	bare – naked, bear – animal, beer – drink, +
+	bore – drill/fatigue, burr – rough edge
bard – writer, bird – animal, boar/-d – pig/panel, bored–drilled/fatigued	beryl – mineral, burl – wood
barrel – container	Basque – European region
bask – sun bathe	bitch – female, botch – error, butch – male
batch – portion	booth – enclosure
bath/-e – immerse	bizarre – strange
bazaar – sales	bee – insect/B
be – to exist	been – be [past], Ben – male name
bean – seed, bin – box	best – win/better [superlative]
beast – wild animal	beautify – pretty
beatify – sanctify	beet – vegetable
beat – drum/conquer	bow – arrow launcher, boo[-boo] – scare/error
beau – beauty	birth – born
berth – place	blather – talk, blotter – dryer
bladder – bodily organ	blur /-ry – smudge, blear/-y – unfocused
blare – trumpet	blue – color
blew – blow [past]	boot – load/shoe, bout –contest
boat – ship, bought – purchased,	bone moat – skeleton ditch, bonbon – candy
bon mot – good word	

bough – branch	bow – bend
bowl – container	bowel – entrails
boy – male child	buoy – floater
bread – food	breed/bred – mate/-ed
brews – prepares drinks	bruise – wound
bumbershoot – umbrella [erroneously British]	broolly – umbrella [Brit]
but – however	butt – end, butte – promontory
buy – purchase	by – method, bye – so long
cache – hide	cash – money
cactus – plant [singular]	cacti – plants [plural]
cadence – tempo	credence – believable
café – restaurant	coffee – drink
calf – cow	cough – sputter, cuff – sleeve end
call – speak out	kale – plant, cool – slightly cold, cull – separate
calorie – heat	cavalier – callous, cavalry – mounted army
cant – slope/phrase	can't – cannot
canter – stroll	cantor – singer, candor – truth
cap – cover	cape – jetty/coat
capable – able	culpable – blame
capital – head city/funds	capitol – government building
car – vehicle	care – concern
carat – gem weight	carrot – vegetable, carob – seed
cart – carry	court – pursue/square/law, curt – short
carton – package	cartoon – panel
cat – animal	caught – catch, cot – bed, coat – cover, +
+	cut – separate, kit – pack [noun]
cease/-d-stop/-ped, cyst-bump, seize/-d-grab/-bed, size/-d –measure	seed – germ
cede – give up	celibate – unmarried
celebrate – party	sell – vend
cell – enclosure	cinder – ash, sinter – meld
center – middle	sense – meaning, since – from [time]
cents – pennies/hundredths,	serial – sequenced
cereal – grain	chit – receipt
chat – talk	check – note, Czech, cheek – face
chalk – crayon	C-/chuck – male name/stop
choke – squeeze	chaff – discards
chafe – scrape	char – burn
chair – seat	charred – burnt
chard – plant	chaste – virgin
chased – pursued	shatter – break
chatter – talk	chief – leader
chef – cook	choose/chose – choice [infinitive]/[past]
chew/-s – eat/-s,	chick – bird, sheik(-h) – Bedouin
chic – trendy	shin – leg, shim – adjust
chin – jaw	quire – paper, acquire – obtain
choir – chorus	ciao – hello/good bye [Italian]
chow – meal	site – location, sight – see
cite – quote	click – press, clique – group
claque – hired audience	clod – dirt/dullard
clawed – scratched	cloth/-e/-es – covering, cover, wardrobe
close – near/shutter	cloture – vote
closure – ending	course – path
coarse – unrefined	cocoa – chocolate, caca – feces [Spanish]
coca – cocaine	

coffer – box	coiffure – hair, cougher – dislodge [person]
collage – paste	college – school
committee – group	comity – courtesy, comedy – funny
common – likewise	commune – visit/group
complement/-ary – make whole	compliment/-ary – free gift
colonel – military rank	kernel – seed
concert – together	disconcerting – bothersome
cooperation – together	corporation – form of business
cop – plea/police	cope – deal with, cup – drink
core – center	corps – group/body, cur – scoundrel, cure – fix
cough – dislodge	cuff – clothing edge
council – group/advice [noun]	counsel – advise [verb]
cranial – brain	criminal – illegal
crews – teams	cruise – travel
criterion – standard [singular]	criteria – standards [plural]
crop – cut/plants	croup – disease
crutch – aid	crux – center
cue – prompt/stick	queue – waiting line, Q
daft – silly	deft – skillful, deaf – cannot hear
dairy – milk	diary – journal
dale – glen, dill – plant, doled/-lled – gave/prettied, dolt – dullard	dame – lady, damn – curse
dam – reservoir	dare – challenge, dire – bad, door – closure, dour – stubborn/morose
data – information [plural], date – time, datum – information [singular]	don – place
dawn – shed light	daze – dizzy
days – time periods	decoration – adornment
décor – design	defecation – excretion
defection – quit	defence – protection [British]
defense – protection	definite/-ly – certain/-ly
defiant/-ly – contrary	deign – condescend, din – noise, dine – eat, Dan/-e
den – residence,	depreciate – decrease
deprecate – insult	discretion – judgment
description – story	dessert – sweet meal
desert – dry place/depart	disparate – different
desperate – needy	didn't – did not, dent – bump
did – do [past]	dye/-s – tint/-s, dice – game
die/-s – cease/-s life	dope – dumb/glue, dupe – deceive
dip – submerge	dime – 10 cents
dim – less light	dingy – dirty
dinghy – small boat	voir dire – testimony [legal]
dire – extreme	due – deadline, dew – moist
do – perform	dough – bread/money
doe – deer	dose – portion, doze – sleep
does – performs/deer [plural]	docent – guide, dunce – dullard
doesn't – does not	done – complete, don't – do not, don/-ed – wear/wore, dun – penalty
done – complete, don't – do not, don/-ed – wear/wore, dun – penalty	dumb – not intelligent
doom – foreboding	dote – serve
dot – point	draught – beer, drought – dry
draft – design/tug	traumatic – wounded
dramatic – theatric	drip – flow, drop – fall, droop – sag
drape – cover	duct – piping
ducked – lowered	dual – double, dull – not bright
duel – gun fight	urn – receptacle
earn – gain	

ebullient – bubbly	embolism – blockage
eclectic – diverse	electric – energy, lactic – milk
effeminate – womanly	effete – fatigued
e.g. – example	i.e. – that is
el – elevated/L	eel – fish
elegant – stylish	eloquent – well spoken
emigrate – exit	immigrate – enter
emollient – sooth	immolate – sacrifice, amulet – charm [noun]
encryption – encode	inscription – writing
enigmatic – unknowable	magnetic – attractive
entomology – insect study	etymology – word origin
eon – time	ion – molecule
epic – historic	epoch – era
epitaph – tombstone	epithet – curse
equate – equal	equilibrate – balance, equivocate – avoid answer
eschew – avoid	issue – distribution
even – equal	event – celebration, eventual – end
ex – former	X
exacerbate – worsen	extricate – withdraw
exercise[-ize British] – implement	exorcise – drive out
exit – out	exist – to be
extant – existing	sextant – measuring device
extrapolate – extend	interpolate – estimate
ewe – sheep	you – thou, U
face – front	faze – bother, phase – cycle, fuss – bother
fact/-s – datum/data	fax – facsimile
fail – not succeed	fall – descend/autumn, fill – add
fairy – phantom	ferry – boat
fake[-]out – deceive/[deceit]	façade – front/cover
fanatic – devoted	frantic – urgent
far – not near	fair – just/bazaar, fare – price, fear – afraid, +
+	for/-e – to/front, fur – hair, four – 4
farther – distance	further – continue
fat – large	fate – destiny, fit – size/ready, fought – fight [past]
feat – performance	feet – foot [plural], fete – party
feels (not) well – touches (not) well	feels good/bad – health/sensation
felled – fallen	felt – hat material/feel [past]
filer – file [person]	flyer – fly [noun]
find – locate	feigned – faked, fined – cash punishment
finish – end/shine	Finnish – Finland
fiscal – calendar	physical – movement
flaccid – deflated	flax – plant
flap – cover/disagreement	flip – turn, flop – failure
flat – smooth/apartment, flit – flew, float – rise/launch, flout – disregard	
flatter – smoother/charm[verb] flutter – flit	
flimflam – mistruth, flimsy – weak, phlegm – sputum, Fleming – Flemish	
flea(s) – insect(s)	flee(s) – depart(s), fleece – wool/rob
flecks – spots	flex – bend
flew – fly [past]	flue – furnace vent
flour – food ingredient	flower – plant bloom
fold – crease	foaled – horse birth
fool – dumb	fuel – energy, foal – horse
for – intended	fore – before, four – 4
forth – proceeding	fourth – 4 th

form – style	forum – theater
formally – officially	formerly – previously
fort – fortification	forte – strength, forté – loud
found – discovered	fun/-d – pleasure/monies
freight – shipment	fret – worry/musical scale
friar – priest	fryer – cook
fraud – deceit	fraught – filled
freeze – solidify	frieze – decorative façade
fulsome – deceptive	Folsom – city
fungus – mushroom	fungi – mushrooms [plural]
gaff – error	golf – game, guff – backtalk, gulf – void
gait – slow gallop	gate – low door, get – obtain
gal – woman	gale – wind, gall – nerve, gill – breathe
gander – bird	gender – sex
gash – cut	gauche – left/passé, gosh – wow, gush – pour
gamble – chance	gambol – skip
gear – cog	gore – morbid, gyre – turn
gee – exclamation	G
gem – stone	gym – building, Jim – male name
genius – very smart	genus – classification
gentle – kindly	gentile – non believer
get/got – obtain/-ed,	goat – animal, gout – disease, gut – bowel
gilt – golden	guilt – blame
gist – essence	jest – joke, just – proper
gloom – dark	glum – sad
gnat – insect	gaol – jail [British]
net – catch, newt – animal, nit – insect, nut – seed	gun – pistol, gone – went
goal – purpose	graffito – wall writing [singular] graffiti – wall writings [plural]
goon – gangster	grin – smile, groan – sigh
graffito – wall writing [singular] graffiti – wall writings [plural]	great – large, greet – welcome
grain – seed, wood	gristly – ligaments
grate – grill/shrill	grown – full sized
grisly – gray	hair – fur, hare – rabbit, hear – listen, here – close by, here're – here are
groan – outcry	hail – salute /snow hall – passage, haul – carry, hill – mountain
hair – fur, hare – rabbit, hear – listen, here – close by, here're – here are	hat – covering hate – dislike, hit – strike, hot – warm, hut – shed
hail – salute /snow hall – passage, haul – carry, hill – mountain	hatch – opening
hat – covering hate – dislike, hit – strike, hot – warm, hut – shed	hitch – halt, hutch – bin
hatch – opening	halve – divide equally
have – possess	hung – endowed
hang/-ed – suspend/-ed	hey – salutation
hay – plant	heed – follow
head – top/toward	heel – rear of foot
heal – recover	heard – listened herd – animal group, hoard – group, horrid – bad
heard – listened herd – animal group, hoard – group, horrid – bad	hers – female possessive
hearse – funeral carriage	heckle – jeer
hackle – neck	hymn – song, hem – mend
him – male [object]	hippopotamuses – animals [plural]
hippopotamus – animal	hoe – tool
ho – greeting/whore	whole – complete
hole – opening	horse – animal, whores – libertines
hoarse – voiceless	whore – libertine
horror – frightening	hypo – less
hyper – more	immanent – thoughts
imminent – soon	infer – perceive
imply – intend	

in – preposition	inn – tavern, en – N
inalienable – permanent	unalienable – permanent [archaic]
incite – instigate	insight – understanding
inscription – writing	encryption – encode
infinitely – unbounded	infinity – forever, affinity – association
insolent – rude insolvent – inert,	insulate – protect from heat/cold
irascible – anger prone	irrational – illogical
ire – anger	oar – boat tool, or/-e – instead/mineral
its – possessive	it's – it is
jail/-ed – imprison/gaol [Brit.]/-ed,	jilt – no agreement
jar – container, ajar – open	jeer – heckle, gyre – rotate
jejune – young	June – month/name
jewel – gem	joule – energy
jet – speed	jot – write, jut/jetty – extension, jute – plant
kill/-ed – murder/-ed	kale – plant, kiln – oven, kilt – male skirt
knave – rascal	naïve – ignorant
knead – roll dough	need – necessity
knew – understood	gnu – animal, new – unknown, nu – N/v
knight – rank	night – darkness
knot – tie	not – negative, naught - nothing
know/-s – understand/-s	no/-es – negative, nose – smell
lack/-s – miss/-es, lake/-s – pond/-s,	lax – loose, like/-s – prefer/-s
ladder – steps	later – in future, latter – further
lain – placed	lane – path, lawn – grass
lair – den, leer – look, liar – false,	lawyer – barrister, layer – put, lure – bait
lamb – sheep	lame – less able
largesse – charity	largest – biggest
lash – fasten	lush – verdant/drunken
late – tardy	let – permit, lit – land/light, lot – plenty/status
lath – plaster	lathe – cut
laugh/-ed – joke/-ed	loft – attic/launch
launch – inaugurate	lunch – meal
law – rule	lay – recline, lie – place/untruth, lye – chemical
leafs – flips through	leaves – departs/leaf [plural]
leak – drip	leek – plant
left – port [side]	leafed – flipped through, lift - raise
legislator – representative	legislature – parliament
lessee – renter	lessor – owner, lesser – smaller
lends – loans	lens – optic
lessen – decrease	lesson - instruction
letter – character/message	liter – volume, litter – offspring
laze – relax	lays – reclines, liaise – connect, lase – laser [verb]
lieu – place	loo – toilette [British]
lightening – less heavy	lightning – spark
literal – verbatim	littoral – coastal
lodge – place	loge – balcony
loon – bird	lune – moon [French], loom – weave/hover
loot – pilfer	lute – instrument, lewd – vulgar
lose – misplace	loose – not tight, louse – insect
macro – large	micro – small
made – make [past]	mad – crazy, maid – female servant
magnanimous – kindly	magnificent – grand
mail – postal	male – masculine, mill – grind
maim – harm, Ma'am – madam,	mom – mother, mum – quiet/flower

main – central	mane – horse hair, Maine (USA/France)
major – important	force majeure – dominating [legal]
mall – courtyard,	maul – mistreat, moll – girl, mole – animal/blemish
mammary – female	memory – recall
many – numerous	mini – small
mar–deface, mere–only, mire–stuck,	more–plus/norm, moor–tie/field
marking – print	marketing – promotion
marry – wed	merry – happy, Mary – girl’s name
martyr – victim	mortar – cement, motor – engine
mash – crush mishmash – mess,	mosh – dance, mush – cereal
massage – rub	message – sent information masticate – chew
matriculate – study [verb]	
mat – rug	mate – spouse, matt – no luster, met – encountered
mauve – grayish purple	move – shift
meat – flesh	meet – encounter
medal – award meddle – interfere,	metal – chemical, mettle – spirit
meld – join	melt – liquefy
meretricious – vulgar/money	meritorious – worthy
mew – cat sound	moo – cow sound, mu – M/μ
mile/-stone – distance/marker,	mill/-stone – grind/-er, melee – fight
mitt – glove	myth – legend, mit – with [German]
mold – form/fungus	molt – shed
mnemonic –memory aid, monotony/-ic	–repeats/rises, moronic–stupid
mind – consciousness	mined – dug
miner – digger	minor – juvenile/lesser
minute – 60 seconds/small	minuet – dance
misery – suffering	miserly – stingy
missed – omitted	mist – water
model – miniature	mottle – speckled
moot – past questioning	moat – ditch, mute – quiet, mutt – dog
moose – animal/-s	mouse/mice – fluffy, animal/-s, muss – mess
more – additional	mores – customs
much – great	mulch – soil
muscle – flesh	mussel – shellfish
nail – fastener/claw	nil – nothing
naught – nil, net – catch, newt – animal,	not – no, node – branch, +
+ nod –head down, gnat/nit –insect,	note –jot/music, nut –seed
naval – maritime	navel – belly
nay – negative	née – born as
near – close by	ne’er – never
none – negative	nun – cleric, noon – midday
nook – opening	nuke – nuclear
nose – breathe	noose – loop
oak – tree	OK – approved
oat – grain	out – exit, ought – should, owed – indebted
octopus – animal	octopuses – animals [plural]
of – from	off – not on, oaf – dullard
oh – exclamation	owe – due, O
on – upon	own – possess
one – 1	won – win [past]/Chinese
orient – locate/east	orientate – locate [British]
over – above/passed	oeuvre – work effort [French]
paced – followed	paste – glue
pail – bucket, pal – friend, pale – whitish,	pill – medicine/shed[verb]

pair – couple	par – equal, pare – trim, pear – fruit, +
+ <i>panino</i> – sandwich [singular]	peer – equal/look, pier – wharf, pyre – crematory <i>panini</i> – sandwiches [plural]
paparazzo – fish, photographer	paparazzi – photographers [plural]
parameter – variable	perimeter – boundary
part – piece	port – harbor/-our [British]/liquor/left
passé – old	posse – group
passed – overtook	past – former
pat/pet – touch/animal, +	pit–hole, pot–contain, pout–sad, + put/-t–place/stroke
patch – covering	pitch – tar/music
paunch – stomach	punch – hit
pause – stop	paws – mammal feet, pa’s – dad’s, posse – group
pea – vegetable	pee – urinate/P
peace – tranquility	piece – portion
peculiar/-ity – uniqueness	pecuniary – money, culinary – cooking
pearl – jewelry	peril – danger, puerile – childish
pealed – unwrapped	pelt – strike/fur
pen – enclosure/writer	pin – pointed
penal – punishment	penile – male sex
penultimate – 2 nd to last	ultimate – 1 st /last, petulant – fretful
pernicious – mean spirited	promiscuous – libertine
perquisite/perk – benefit/alert	prerequisite – requirement
personal – individual	personnel – employees
perturbation – agitation	protuberance – protruding
picture – scene	pitcher – thrower/container
pie – dessert	pi – Π/π
pip – bud	pipe – tube
plain – simple	plane – flatten/airplane
plum – fruit	plumb – align
pole – long stick, Pole – Polish	poll – survey, pol – politician
pond – lake	pound – weight/hit
pool – gather [verb]/lake/game	pull – tug
poor – not rich	pore – opening, pour – dispense
poppycock – nonsense	popinjay – talkative
portend – foretell	pretend – not genuine
posh – nice/“ <u>Port</u> <u>Out</u> <u>Stern</u> <u>Home</u> ”	push – shove
postpone – delay	prepone – advance [Indian]
pray – ask	prey – food
precede – prior	proceed – continue
precept – presumption	preset – default
precipitate – rain/cause	reciprocate – respond
precipitous – hasty	propitious – favorable
prefer – like	preferred – liked/equity, preference – choice
premier – chief	première – first performance
prerequisite – requirement	perquisite/perk – reward/alert
prescribe – recommend	proscribe – bounded
president – [not capitalized]	President – [with proper name]
pries – opens with effort	prize – value
prim – proper	prime – basic
principal – important	principle – rule
prior – previous	prier – opener, priory – church
profit – gain	prophet – foretell
prone – reclined	prune – fruit

province – region
 pubic – sexual privates
 purse – bag/kiss
 pylon – pole
 quail – animal
 quash – suppress
 quit – cease
 rabbis – clerics
 rack – display
 rail – complain/guide
 rain – precipitation, ran – run [past], reign – governance, rein – leash
 raise/-ed – lift, parent [verb]
 ranch – farm,
 rap/-ped – tap/speak, rape – violate, wrap – contain, rapt – engrossed
 rare – unusual
 rat – animal
 read – view/-ed words
 recede – pull back
 recreation – relaxation
 reek – smell bad
 refer/-red – indicate/-d,
 +
 relay/-s – sequence/-s
 remainder – leftover
 remuneration – payment
 resume – continue
 revile – ridicule
 rhinoceros – animal
 rice – grain
 rid/-s – dispose/-s
 rife – full
 right – correct/starboard, rite – ceremony, wright – worker, write – print
 rigor – difficult
 roam – wander
 rob/-bed – steal/stole, robe/-d – clothe/-d, rub/-bed – massage/-d
 role – character
 roof – building cover
 root – plant
 rose – lifted/flower
 rot/-e – decay/memory, rut – groove, wrought – work, wrote – printed
 roughly – approximately
 row – boat/scuffle
 rye – grain
 sack – bag/discharge
 sacred – holy
 sad – unhappy
 +
 sail – boat by wind
 sallow – sickly yellow
 salve – ointment
 sanguine – warm
 sap – tree/drain, sip – drink,
 sate/-ed – feed/fed fully
 satin – cloth
 provenance – origin, providence – gift
 public – everyone
 parse – separate, per se – as such
 python – snake
 quill – feather
 squash – plant/crush
 quite – more so, quiet – silence
 rabies – animal disease
 rake – tool/lewd
 real – true, reel – coil, rile – disturb
 raise/-d – destroy, rays – shine
 raunchy – rude, wrench – tool, wretch – horrid
 rear – back/raise, roar – yell
 rate – evaluate/tariff, writ – legal
 red – color/[-ur British], reed – grass
 reside – inhabit, reseed – replant
 re-creation – repeat
 wreck – damage
 reefer – refrigerator/joint, refereed – juried +
 reference – source
 rely/-ies – depend/-s
 reminder – recall
 re-(e)numeration – recount
 résumé – personal summary
 reveille – wake up
 rhinoceroses – animals [plural]
 rise/rose – lift/-ed/flower
 writ/-s – warrant/-s, Ritz – 5 star
 riff/-raff – portion/commoner
 de rigueur – proper, vigor – strength
 Rome – city
 roll – list/revolve
 rough – irregular
 rout – extract, route – plan
 rows – lines/strokes
 ruffled – loose folds
 roué – cad, rho – P/p
 wry – thin/jest, awry – unplanned
 sake – interest/drink
 scare/-d – frighten/-ed, scar/red – wound/-ed
 said – say [past], side – vertical, sod – soil, +
 sighed – breathed, suds – soapy
 sale – vend, soil – dirty
 shallow – not deep
 save – conserve, savvy – smart
 sequin – ornament
 soap – cleanser, soup – meal, sup – dine
 seat/-ed – sit/sat
 Satan – Devil

scald – burn	scold – reprimand, schooled – educated
scale – weigh/covering	skill – ability, school – learn
scene – locale	seen – had viewed
scent – smell	sent – send [past]
scheme – plot	skim – superficial, scam – deception
scotch – a drink	Scots – people
scrap – discard	scrape – scratch
scuffle – fight	shuffle – rearrange
sea – ocean	see – view/province, C
seam – stitch	seem – appear
sear – cook	seer – foresee, soar/-ed – to fly/[past], sore – pain, +
+	sour/-ed – rotten, sword – blade
secede – withdraw	succeed – win
sects – devotees	sex – procreation
seek/-s – search/-es	Sikh/-s – Punjabi/-s, six – 6
selfish – own	shellfish – crustacean
sense – meaning	since – from [time], cents – pennies
sewer – drain/seamstress	soar – fly
sewn – stitched	soon – near in time, sown – seeded
shackle – chain	shekel – coin
shall – will, shell – cover,	shill – cohort, shoal – coast, school – learn
shard – fragment	shared – gave
shoe – foot/hoof, shoo – scatter,	show/-n – display/-ed, shun - avoid
shoot – fire [verb]	shut – close
shudder – shiver	shutter – closer/-ure
sic – verbatim	sick – ill
sigh – wistful breath	psi – Ψ/φ, scythe – cutter
sign – indication	sin/-e – fault/trigonometry, sen – Japanese
sir/-e – male salutation	sire – birthed
slaw – salad, slew – killed,	slow – not fast, slough – pond/shed [verb]
smelled – sensed odor	smelt – metal treatment/fish
smoke – burn	smote – strike
snip – cut	snipe – shoot/bird
so – more	sow – to plant/pig, sew – to stitch
soar – fly	sore – pain, sour – rotten
sold – sell [past]	soled – shoed, soiled – dirtied, silt – mud
solder – meld	soldier - military
sole – single/bottom	soil – dirt/-y, soul – essence, +
+	Seoul – South Korea capital
some – partial	sum – total, psalm – prayer
son – male child	sun – star
sot–drunk, soot–ash, suit –apropos/outfit, sued–law, sought–seek [past]	
span – reach	spin/-un – rotate/-d, spoon – utensil/snuggle
spare – conserve	spear – sword, spore – seed, spur - extension
spat/spit [past] – discharge/roisserie, spite – revenge, spate – period	
speak/spoke – talk/[past]/wheel spook – ghost	
spell – write/time	spill – overturn, spool – wheel
squib – degrees	squab – bird, squid – fish
staid – sober/established	stayed – remained
stair – tread	star – sky/actor, stare – look at, starboard – right
stake – investment	steak – beef
stationary – fixed in place	stationery – writing paper
steal – rob	steel – metal, stole – coat/robbed, stool – chair/feces
steep – sloped/linger	step – advance, steppe – prairie

steer/-ed – animal/guide/-d	stir/-red – mix/-ed
stick/-s – branch/-es	shtick – act, Styx – river
straight – direct	strait – narrow
strange – bizarre	strangle – squeeze
sully – besmirch, surly – rude,	surely – positively, Shirley–female name
summary – outline	summery – warm
sublime – chemical/subtle	supine – back
superficial – skim	superfluous – unnecessary, supercilious – arrogant
surpass – better	surprise – unexpected
swap – exchange	sweep – clean, swipe – steal, swoop – fly
swath – cut	swarthy – dark
sweat – perspiration	sweet – sugary
tabulation – tally	tittillation – tease, tintinnabulation – tinkling
tack/-s/-ed – fasten/-s/-ed	tact – skill, take – receive, tax – fee
tail – rear	tale – story, tell – say
tambour – drum	tamper – disrupt
tap – touch, tape – fastener/record,	tip – turnover, type – genre/print
tare – net weight	tear/tore – eye/rip/[past], tier – stage, +
+	tire – wheel/fatigue, tour – travel
tart – sweet	tort – damage
taught – instructed	taut – tight, tot – child, tote – carry
tea/-s – a drink	tease – taunt, tee/-s – T/Ts
temblor – quake	timber – wood, tremble – shiver
temerity – fearless	timidity – shyness
ten – 10	tin – metal, tine – fork
tentacle – extremity	testicle – male sex
tent – cloth structure	tint – to color
tern – bird	turn – revolve
than – comparative	then – followed, thin – not thick, thine – yours
the – specific	thee – you, they – them, though – however
their – possessive,	there – place, there're – there are, they're – they are
these – nearby	thesis/-es – idea/-s
threw – throw [past]	through – method, thorough – entire
till – turn soil/cashbox	'til – until
time – clock	thyme – seasoning
tip – turn over/benefit	type – write/version
to – infinitive/direction	too – also/very, two – 2
toad – frog	towed – pulled
toe – foot digit	tow – pull, tau – T/τ
told – said	tolled – rang, toiled – worked
ton/-ne – 2,000 pounds/[British] tone – pitch, atone – undo harm	tune – song
toon – cartoon	trowel – tool
towel – drying cloth	trial – deliberation, trill – music
trail – path	trine – triple
train – exercise/vehicle	transliteration – translate letters
translation – change language	trap – snare trip/-e – journey/misstep/worthless, troop – group
trap – snare	tread/trod – sole/step/[past] treed – up a tree, tried – try [past]/juried
tread/trod – sole/step/[past]	treble –music/3 times[adjective], triple –thrice[verb], trouble –difficulty
treble –music/3 times[adjective], triple –thrice[verb], trouble –difficulty	treachery – betrayal
treachery – betrayal	treasury – funds
trellis – support	trestle – bridge
tribulation – trial	trepidation – fear
trickle – drip	treacle – molasses
trust – rely	tryst – meeting, triste –sad [French]

underling – subordinate	underlining – underscored
vain – selfish vane – propeller,	vein – path/meaning, vine – plant
valet – servant	valley – depression
valor – courage	velour – velvet
valuable – worthy	viable – life
vary – change	very – more so
vat – container	vet – to examine, vet['] – veteran/veterinarian
version – model type	virgin – chaste
vertex – angle	vortex – turbulence
vial – container	vile – abhorrent
waif–child, wave–salute, wove–sew [past], wife–woman, waive–excuse	whale–sea mammal
wail–cry	waste – left over
waist – mid body	weight – proportion/measure, wit – smart
wait – delay , wet – moisten,	WAC – Women’s Army Corps , wax – from bees
wake/-s – wave/-s	wonder – question
wander – without goal	wear/wore – clothe/[past], wire – thread, +
ware – products	were – be [past], we’re – we are
+	
was/-n’t – be[past]/-not, way/-s – path/-s, weigh/-s – measure/-s	wee – small
we – us	week – 7 days
weak – not strong	whether – if
weather – climate	wired – electrified
weird – different	we’ll – we will
well – good [adverb]/source	whet – sharpen
wet – moist	wile – skill/idle
while – during	wine – drink
whine – shrill complaint	world – environ
whirled – swung	whom – [object], whose – possessive
who’s – [subject]/who is	Y
why – question	Wendy – girl’s name
windy – gusty	won’t – will not
wont – predisposed	would/-n’t – inclined/-not
wood – tree material	reek – smell
wreck – destroyed	yet – until
yacht – boat	y’all – you all
yawl – tool	you’re – you are, your – [possessive], yore – past
year – time	Yute – Indian, jute – plant
you’d – you would, Jude – name	Yule – Christmas
you’ll – you will	

Style Preferences

Title and heading conjunctions and prepositions are often not capitalized (*and, or, but, in, on, of, against, under, ...*). A heading normally takes no punctuation, underlining or italics and should start the next page if nothing would otherwise appear below it on the same page. The word “*an*” instead of “*a*” precedes words starting with vowel sounds. Noun and verb agreement regarding singular and plural is *de rigueur* ; in the third person, non irregular forms have a terminal *s* on either the noun (plural) or the verb (singular). Seasons (*winter, spring, summer, fall/autumn*) are not capitalized unless used as proper nouns (*In the winter the Spring Festival will start*). Multiple adverbs and adjectives take a hyphen between related words (*two-year multiple course disciplines*), [verb]-[preposition] takes a hyphen when used as a noun (*shake-down, strike-out, break-up*), as well as the written numbers between *twenty-one* and *ninety-nine*. Writing programs often convert two hyphens to a dash (–) and is appropriate for an explanation. Common abbreviations include e.g. (examples), i.e. (namely), and NB (note well as a footnote). Superscripts are used for citations to footnotes or references (¹); subscripts are used for differentiated variables (*A₁* vs. *A₃*). Counted small integer numbers are properly spelled out as words; sizes are properly expressed as numerals (*three 2 ounce packages*).

Use a decimal point (.) in numbers for proportions less than one and commas (,) between thousands, but not for years; this differs from some European notation which may reverse these or use spaces for thousands; U.S. billion and trillion may be European milliard and billion respectively. Ordinal numbers (can be treated arithmetically) are written in Arabic characters (3, 219, etc.); cardinal numbers (nominal or not subject to arithmetic treatment) are written in Roman numerals (III, CCXIX, etc.). Educational degree award dates and dates of publication take brackets [2011], employment periods take parentheses (*from- to*). Parenthesis usage in mathematics is nested as ([{ ... }]).

While subject to variation, punctuation should end within the closing quotation mark (.), (!), and (?) while noting that others including *Jeopardy!* place these marks (??) after for titles. Names of books and publications are *italicized* (formerly underlined) as are foreign and new words or for emphasis. The opening and closing quotation marks properly appear as inverted versions of each other (“...”). Double spacing is preferred between sentences (and avoids confusion regarding terminal abbreviations)—likewise for colons (:) if a list follows. Commas (,) separate all listed items of three or more (...*colleges of Baltimore, William and Mary, and Dover*). Spacing between ellipses (...) and initials (U.S.) may be omitted. Semicolons (;) separate closely related sentences and they separate greater lists from lesser lists. Symbols (% and \$) are used in tables, but in a sentence are properly spelled out as *percent* and *dollar(s)*. The apostrophe (') is before the *s* for possessives and after for plural possessives (*Jones'* vs. *Joneses*). Numbers receive similar treatment (*30's music* vs. *the 40s*) while notable decades are spelled out as proper names (*the Twenties, the Sixties*).

See also:

Funk & Wagnall's Standard College Dictionary, California State Department of Education

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Errors Caused by Over-Reliance on Spelling Checkers, by Sean Igo

<http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/spellcheck.html>

Spell Checker "Misspellings" <http://englishplus.com/news/news0102.htm>

SPELL CHECKER DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK <http://www.csun.edu/~vcecn006/spell.html>

Spelling and Grammar Errors that Can Ruin Your Site; Common Spelling and Grammar Errors on Web Pages By Jennifer Kyrnin, <http://webdesign.about.com/od/grammar/a/common-spelling-errors.htm>