

MISUSED WORDS (AND THE RIGHT WAY TO USE THEM)



FARTHER VS. FURTHER

FARTHER: Refers to literal distances

Farther down the road.

FURTHER: Refers to figurative distances, also, additionally

Further back in history.

Let's not discuss this further..

Both Mark Twain and Edith Wharton used these words "incorrectly."
But separate use cases emerged over time and are now expected.



COMPRISE VS. COMPOSE

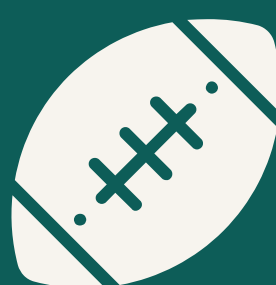
COMPRISE: To include or contain

A football team comprises 11 players.

COMPOSE: To make up or constitute

Eleven players compose a football team.

A football team is composed of 11 players.



Comprise is being used incorrectly more frequently/
If the trend holds, the two words may eventually become interchangeable.



COMPLEMENT VS. COMPLIMENT

COMPLEMENT: To complete something

Her shoes complemented her dress.

COMPLIMENT: To praise

I liked her dress, so I complimented her outfit...

INSURE VS. ENSURE

INSURE: To cover with an insurance policy

The student was insured under her parents' policy.

ENSURE: To make happen or guarantee

Studying ensured she got good grades.



ASSURE can also be confused with these two. Assure means to remove doubt.
I assured her that if she studied, she would get good grades.



AFFECT VS. EFFECT

AFFECT: To influence or change (verb)

She hoped studying hard would affect her grade.

EFFECT: A change, result, or outcome (noun)

Her studying had a positive effect. She got an A...

"IMPACT" is increasingly used as interchangeable with both affect and effect.
Previously, impact was only used as a noun, but these days it can be both.

*She hoped studying would impact her grade.
Her studying had a positive impact on her grades..*

