

## Common Errors in Student Writing:

accept, except      *Accept* means "willing to receive"; *except* means "all but."

My aunt would not accept any money for the favor.  
I like everything about the summer except the heat.

alot, a lot      Use *a lot*, the correct form. Generally, however, use more specific words: *a great deal*, *many* or *much*.

I have collected a lot of empty soda cans.  
I have collected many soda cans.

could of, should of, would of.      Use correct form: *could have*, *should have* and *would have*.

its, it's      *Its*, a possessive pronoun, means "belonging to it"; *it's* is a contraction, means "it is".

The dog favored its right leg.  
It's likely that we will be seeing many political ads on TV.

kind of, sort of      Use *rather*, *somewhat*, or *to some extent* instead.

on account of Use *because* or *since*, briefer ways of saying the same thing

their, there, they're      *Their*, a possessive pronoun, means "belonging to them"; *there*, usually an adverb, indicates placement; *they're*, a contraction, means "they are."

Students need time to complete their homework.  
Put the boxes over there, and I will open them later.  
Let them sit wherever they're comfortable.

to, too, two      *To* is a preposition or part of an infinitive; *too* is a modifier meaning "in extreme" or "also"; *two* is the number 2.

The painter tried to create a masterpiece.  
The movie was too scary for me.  
She gave me two choices.

weather, whether      *Weather* means "conditions of the climate"; *whether* means "if."

The weather recently has been hot and humid.  
We have to pay taxes whether we like them or not.