

SIR IELTS





Glossary of correct usage



SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

accept, except.

Accept is a verb ; *except* is a preposition

They *accepted* my invitation.

Everyone attended the meeting *except* the secretary.

advice, advise.

Advice is a noun; *advise* is a verb.

His *advice* was useful.

I was *advised* to purchase a more economical car.

affect, effect.

Affect is a verb; it means " to influence."

Effect may be a verb or a noun.

The verb *effect* means " to cause to happen "; the noun *effect* means " the result."

Pollution *affects* everyone.

Your tears do not *affect* me.

Your tears have no *effect* upon me.

Doctors have *effected* a cure for polio.

The *effect* of drugs is well known.

almost, most.

Most is used to form the superlative; it is used to modify nouns.

Almost is an adverb.

Most people are honest.

He is the *most* unusual person I have ever met.

Almost everyone has a desire to succeed.

Almost all of the food was eaten.

already, all ready.

Already means " before the time specified. "

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

All ready means " completely prepared."

The movie had *already* begun by the time we arrived.

The members were *all ready* to hear the report.

altogether, all together.

Altogether means " thoroughly."

All together means " in a group."

The thought of a third world war is *altogether* frightening.

The children were *all together* on the bus.

amount, number.

Use *amount* to refer to thing sin bulk or mass; *number* refers to the countable.

Wrong : I was amazed by the *amount* of people present.

Right : I was amazed by the *number* of people present.

Right : The *amount* of money needed was soon collect.

and which, which

Wrong : I found a lost dog *and which* needs a good home.

Right : I found a lost dog *which* needs a good home.

Wrong : My father is a good man *and whom* we all love deeply.

Right : My father is a good man *whom* we all love deeply *and whom* we admire.

anywheres, anywhere

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Anywheres is very informal

Wrong : We can talk *anywheres*.

Right : We can talk *anywhere*.

around

Wrong : He arrived *around* ten o'clock.

Right : He arrived *about* ten o'clock.

as.

Avoid using *as* instead of *because, for, since, that, or whether*.

Wrong : *As* he was ill, he stayed home.

Right : *Because* he was ill, he stayed home.

 : *Since* he was ill, he stayed home.

 : He stayed home, *for* he was ill.

Wrong : I feel *as* I should go.

Right : I feel *that* I should go.

at.

Omit the " at "

Wrong : Where is he living *at* now ?

Right : Where is he living now ?

at about.

Omit the " at ".

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Wrong He arrived *at about* noon.

Right He arrive *about* noon.

because.

Do not begin a noun clause with *because*.

Wrong : *Because* he was late annoyed the teacher

Right : His lateness annoyed the teacher.

Right : The fact that he was late annoyed the teacher.

Wrong : *Because* I overate was why I became ill.

Right : *Because* I overate, I became ill.

beside, besides.

Besides means " in addition to."

Beside means " next to. "

He sat *beside* the pretty girl.

He owes a bicycle *besides* a car.

between, among.

Among always implies more than two;

between implies only two.

Wrong : There is little difference *between* the members of the class.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Right : There is little difference *among* the members of the class.

Right : There is little difference *between* the two nationalities.

but, hardly, scarcely.

Do not use these words with another negative.

Wrong : I *couldn't hardly* see him.

Right : I *could hardly* see him.

Wrong : He *didn't have but* one dollar.

Right : He *had but* one dollar..

different from (not different than)

The result was much *different* from what I expected.

equally as good is not correct.

Use either *equally good* or *as good as*.

Wrong : The movie is *equally as good* as the play.

Right : The movie and the play are *equally good*.

Right : The movie is *as good as* the play.

expect and suppose (or *think*) have different meanings.

Wrong : I *expect* that she will be here.

Right : I *suppose* (or *think*) that she will be here.

Right : I *expect* to be late.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Right :They *expect* us to help them.

farther, further.

Farther pertains to distance; *further* is used to express additional time, degree, or quantity.

Chicago is *farther* north than Fort Worth.

We traveled *farther* yesterday than the day before.

I will give you *further* information later.

The president had nothing *further* to reveal.

fewer, less.

Fewer refers to number, to the countable. *Less* refers to value, degree, or amount.

The class consists of *fewer* than fifteen student.

Fewer girls become engineers than boys.

He spends *less* time on his studies than on his golf game.

Wrong : *Less* people speak Thai than English.

Right : *Fewer* people speak Thai than English.

had better, would rather express advisability or preference.

Do not omit the auxiliary.

Wrong : You *better* pay attention to what I am saying.

Right : You *had better* pay attention to what I am saying.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

half a, a half are correct.

Do not use *a half a*.

Wrong : She ate *a half a* sandwich.

Right : She ate *half a* sandwich (or *a half* sandwich)

hanged, hung.

Hanged refers to executions

The murderer was *hanged* for his crime.

The wall was *hung* with photographs.

He *hung* his clothes in the closet.

healthful, healthy.

Healthy usually means " having health."

Healthful means " giving health."

Vitamins are *healthful*.

I want to buy a *healthy* kitten.

in, into.

In indicates " location within." *Into* indicates " motion or direction."

Wrong : She stepped *in* the car.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Right : She stepped *into* the car.

in back of, in between are incorrect.

Omit the " in."

Wrong : Mary was standing *in between* two chairs.

Right : Mary was standing *between* two chairs.

Right : *Back of* the library is Allen Hall.

in regards to is not correct.

Say *in regard to, as regards, or regarding*.

Wrong : She spoke to me *in regards to* my grades.

Right : She spoke to me *in regard to* (or *as regards, regarding*) my grades.

inside of, outside of are incorrect.

Omit the " of." Do not confuse *inside of* with *within*.

Wrong : He lives *outside of* the city.

Right : He lives *outside* the city.

Wrong : The meeting will be over *inside of* an hour.

Right : The meeting will be over *within* an hour.

Wrong : The children are to remain *inside of* the house.

Right : The children are to remain *inside* the house.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

its, it's.

It's is a contraction of it is.

Its is a possessive pronoun.

It's essential that we leave on time.

Its habits have been studied in detail.

kind, sort

are singular words which may be modified by *that* or *this*.

Wrong : I like *these kind* of students.

Right : I like *this kind* of student.

Right : *These kinds* of machines are very useful.

Wrong : *Those sort* of people amuse me.

Right : *That sort* of person amuses me.

kind of a, sort of a.

Omit "a."

Wrong : What *sort of a* wife is she ?

Right : What *sort of* wife is she ?

kind of, sort of are sometimes confused with the word " somewhat."

Wrong : The record was *kind of* expensive.

Right : The record was *somewhat* expensive.

later, latter.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Latter refers to the last name of two.

Do not use *latter* if more than two are named.

Later is the comparative of *late*.

Wrong : John, Mary, and Susan entered the room. *The latter* was carrying a typewriter.

Right : John, Mary, and Susan entered the room. *The last named* was carrying a typewriter.

Right : There are a typewriter and a pencil sharpener on the desk. *The latter* needs to be repaired.

lay, lie.

The verb *lay* has an object; the verb *lie* does not have an object. The principal parts of the verb *lay* are: *lay* (present), *laid* (past), *laid* (past participle), and *laying* (present participle). The principal parts of the verb *lie* are: *lie* (present), *lay* (past), *lain* (past participle), and *lying* (present participle)

Wrong : I always *lay* down after I eat dinner.

Right : I always *lie* down after I eat dinner. (present tense)

Wrong : He *laid* down because he had a headache.

Right : He *lay* down because he had a headache. (past tense)

Wrong : The books are *laying* on the table.

Right : The books are *lying* on the table (present participle)

Right : The teacher *laid* her books on her desk. (past tense)

Right : The boys have *lain* under the tree for several hours. (past participle)

Right : She has *laid* her head on the pillow. (past participle)

Right : Her head *lies* on the pillow. (present tense)

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

leave, let are sometimes confused.

Wrong : She will not *leave* me smoke inside the classroom.

Right : She will not *let* me smoke inside the classroom.

Right : *Leave* (or *let*) me alone.

lend, loan.

Lend is a verb; *loan* is a noun.

Wrong : Would you *loan* me your pencil.

Right : Would you *lend* me your pencil.

Right : He went to the bank to take out a *loan*.

like, as, as if.

Like is a preposition; *as*, *as if* (or *as though*) are conjunctions.

As is also a preposition when it means " in the capacity of."

Wrong : She doesn't study *like* she should.

Right : She doesn't study *as* she should.

Wrong : She acts *like* she doesn't understand.

Right : She acts *as if* (or *as though*) she doesn't understand.

Right : *As* a member of the organization, I have a right to vote.

Right : He eats *like* a bird.

lose, loose.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Lose is a verb. *Loose* means "not tight"

She will *lose* weight if she goes on a diet.

One of the buttons on my shirt is *loose*.

maybe, may be.

Maybe means "perhaps." *May be* is a verb form.

Wrong : *May be* the meeting will be cancelled.

Right : *Maybe* the meeting will be cancelled.

Right : The meeting *may be* cancelled.

myself, himself, yourself are reflexive pronouns.

Do not use them unless they refer back to the subject.

Wrong : No one attended the meeting besides *ourselves*.

Right : No one attended the meeting besides *us*.

Wrong : *A man like himself* deserves praise.

Right : A man like *him* deserves praise.

Wrong : Only John and *myself* witnessed the accident.

Right : Only John and *I* witnessed the accident.

Right : I wrote the composition *by myself*.

Right : They *themselves* did the research. (or They did the research *themselves*.)

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

off of.

Omit " of."

He *fell off* the horse.

out loud is not correct.

Say *aloud*.

Wrong : He sang out loud.

Right : He sang aloud.

passed, past.

Passed is a verb.

Wrong : She *past* me the salt. Right : She *passed* me the salt.

Right : One can learn from his *past* experiences.

Right : He lives in the *past*.

percentage, percent.

Use percent after a number.

Wrong : A large *percent* of his salary is spent on food.

Right : A large *percentage* of his salary is spent on food.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Right : He spends twenty *percent* of his income for rent.

prefer is not followed by the preposition *than*.

Wrong : I *prefer* chocolate ice cream *than* vanilla.

Right : I *prefer* chocolate ice cream *to* vanilla.

Right : I *prefer* chocolate ice cream *rather than* vanilla.

principal, principle.

Principal is a noun or an adjective meaning " chief official " or " main."

Principle is a noun, meaning " fundamental truth."

He followed basic scientific *principles*.

He is a man of few *principles*.

The *principal* side effect of the drug is drowsiness.

My *principal* objection to smoking is its danger to health.

quiet, quite.

Quite means " completely."

Do not use *quite* instead of *very*, *rather*, or *somewhat*.

Wrong : The apartment is *quite* expensive.

Right : The apartment is *very* (*rather*, *somewhat*) expensive.

Right : We must be *quiet* inside the library.

Right : You are *quite* wrong.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

raise, rise.

The verb *rise* does not have an object. The verb *raise* has an object. The principal parts of the verb *rise* are: *rise* (present), *rose* (past), *risen* (past participle), and *rising* (present participle). The principal parts of the verb *raise* are: *raise* (present), *raised* (past), *raised* (past participle), and *raising* (present participle).

He *raised* his hand before asking the question. (past tense)

Some questions were *raised* about income taxes. (past participle)

Should a gentleman *rise* when a lady enters the room ? (present tense)

The sun *rises* in the east and sets in the west. (present tense)

After finishing dinner, he *rose* from the table. (past tense)

God has *risen* from the dead. (past participle)

The sun is *rising* high in the sky. (present participle)

reason because is not correct.

Say *reason that*

Wrong : The *reason* I came late was *because* I overslept..

Right : The *reason* I came late was *that* I overslept.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Wrong : The *reason* that he makes poor grades is *because* of his poor study habits.

Right : The *reason that* (or *why*) he makes poor grades is his poor study habits.

says, said.

Said is the past tense.

Wrong : John ran into the room and says, " There is a stranger outside."

Right : John ran into the room and said, " There is a stranger outside."

seldom ever, seldom or ever are incorrect.

Use *seldom if ever* or *hardly ever*.

Wrong : He *seldom ever* plays tennis.

Right : He *seldom if ever* (or *hardly ever*) plays tennis.

sit, set.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Sit does not take an object; *set* takes an object.

The principal parts of the verb *sit* are : *sit* (present), *sat* (past), *sat* (past participle), and *sitting* (present participle). The principal parts of the verb *set* are: *set* (present), *set* (past), *set* (past participle), and *setting* (present participle).

The old man is *sitting* under the tree. (present participle)

She *set* the chair beside the window. (past tense)

He *sat* down to rest. (past tense)

They *set* a date for the meeting. (past tense)

Sit here. (present tense)

The guests are *sitting* at the table. (present participle)

so that.

So that refers to " purpose." Do not omit " that."

Wrong : He came here *so* he could study English.

Right : He came here *so that* he could study English.

such.

Do not use *such* to mean " very." In a result clause; *such* should be followed by *that*.

Wrong : New York is *such* a crowded city.

Right : New York is a *very* crowded city.

Right : New York is *such* a crowded city *that* I wouldn't like to live there.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

superior is followed by the preposition *to* (not *than*).

Wrong : My toothpaste is *superior than* the other brands on the market.

Right : My toothpaste is *superior to* the other brands on the market.

sure and **try** are not followed by *and*.

Wrong : Be *sure and* study for the test.

Right : Be *sure to* study for the test.

Wrong : *Try and* get some rest.

Right : *Try to* get some rest.

that. Do not omit *that* in noun clause.

Wrong : My objective to smoking is it is dangerous to health.

Right : My objective to smoking is *that* it is dangerous to health.

Wrong : He assured me he understood my problem and he would try to help me.

Right : He assured me *that* he understood my problem and *that* he would try to help me.

their, there, they're

They're over there beside the cabinet.

I am not interested in *their* motives.

There was nothing left to do.

There are several reasons for his actions.

They're coming later this afternoon.

to, too, two

It isn't urgent *to* write a report.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

The actress was *too* nervous to go on stage.

There were *two* cars involved in the accident.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

type of. Do not omit " of."

Wrong : That *type* movie depresses me.

Right : That *type of* movie depresses me.

used to, supposed to. Do not omit the *-d*.

Wrong : He is *suppose* to be here by six.

Right : He is *supposed* to be here by six.

wait on means " to serve." Do not confuse with *wait for*.

Wrong : She *waited on* me for half an hour.

Right : She *waited for* me for half an hour.

Right : The clerk *waited on* several customers during the morning.

want is not followed by a clause.

Wrong : She *wants that* I help her.

Right : She *wants me to* help her.

SIRIELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

were is used in contrary-to-truth conditional clauses.

Do not use was in these clauses.

Wrong : If I **was** taller, I could play basketball.

Right : If I **were** taller, I could play basketball.

Right : I **was** a basketball player when I **was** in college.

when refers to " time." Do not use **when** to introduce a noun clause.

Wrong : **When** I miss my bus causes me to be late.

Right : **When** I miss my bus, I am late.

where refers to " place." Do not use where meaning **that**.

Wrong : I read in the newspaper **where** the President is going to veto the proposed law.

Right : I read in the newspaper **that** the President is going to veto the proposed law.

while refers to " time." Do not use **while** meaning **but** or **and**.

Wrong : My brother is a pilot **while** my sister is a teacher..

Right : My brother is a pilot, **and** my sister is a teacher.

Wrong : **While** my family is not rich, we have many advantages.

Right : My family is not rich, **but** we have many advantages.

Right : **While** you were out, someone called and left a message.

who's, whose. Who's means who is. Whose is a possessive.

Wrong : She is a woman who's advice is easy to follow.

SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM



Glossary of correct usage

Right : She is a woman whose advice is easy to follow.

Right : Do you know who's giving the party ?



SIR IELTS has become the first choice for many students who want to learn English in safe and supporting environment. Make it your first choice as well.

WWW.SIRIELTS.COM