

Commonly Confused Words 4

Allusion, Illusion

Allusion vs. Illusion

- **Allusion** is a brief reference or mention of a famous person, place or thing.
- **Illusion** is a false impression or idea
- Example:
 - As he made an *allusion* to the great magicians of the past, Houdini created the *illusion* of having sawed his assistant in half.

Altogether, All together

Altogether, All together

- **Altogether** is an adverb meaning “completely”
- **All together** is used to describe people or things which are gathered in one place at one time.
- Example:
 - There is *altogether* too much goofing off when we have activities where every one is *all together*.

Ascent, Assent

Ascent, Assent

- **Ascent** is the “act of rising.”
- **Assent** in an agreement.
- The pilot *assented* that the plane’s *ascent* was unusually bumpy.

Capital, Capitol

Capital, Capitol

- **Capital** can be either a noun or an adjective
 - Noun refers to money or a city
 - Adjective means major or important
- **Capitol** is used only when talking about a building.
 - The *capitol* building is in the *capital* city for a *capital* reason.

Counsel, Council

Counsel, Council

- **Counsel** can be a noun or verb.
 - Noun mean advice
 - Verb means to advise
- **Council** refers to a group which advises
- The *council counseled* all students to do all their homework. Now that is good *counsel*.