

## Commonly Confused Words

### Later vs. Latter

- **Later** means after a period of time.
  - **Later** in the year we will study 20<sup>th</sup> Century history.
- **Latter** refers to the second of two things mentioned.
  - For breakfast I had the choice between bagels and eggs. The **latter** seemed more appealing.

### Metal, meddle, medal, mettle

- **Metal** is an element like iron or gold.
- **Meddle** means “to interfere”
  - My parents like to **meddle** in my business.
- **Medal** is an award
  - I hope to win a gold **medal**
- **Mettle** is a noun and refers to quality of character.
  - Convicts are typically people of low **mettle**.

### Past, passed

- **Passed** is always a verb meaning to pass
  - My brother **passed** me the salad during dinner.
- **Past** can be a noun, an adjective, or a preposition.
  - History is based in the **past**. (Noun)
  - Some people believe in a **past** life. (Adj)
  - I walked **past** the candy store without going in. (Preposition)

### Right, write, rite

- **Right** means
  - “correct or proper”
  - anything which a person has a legal claim to (copyright)
  - or a direction (right hand turn).
- **Write** means to “record in print”
- **Rite** is a ritual or ceremony. (Rite of passage)

### Steal, Steel

- **Steal** means to take something without permission
  - **Stealing** Freedom
  - **Stealing** a pencil from a friend
- **Steel** is a metal
  - The North had 97% of the **steel** production in the United States during the Civil War.