

Commonly Confused Words

Principal, Principle

- ❑ As an adjective, PRINCIPAL means "primary."
 - The principal reason you failed was because you did not complete assignments.
- ❑ As a noun, PRINCIPAL means "a school administrator" or "a sum of money"
- ❑ PRINCIPLE means an "idea or doctrine."
 - The principle of freedom is apparent in our constitution.

Oars, Ore, Or

- ❑ An OAR is a paddle used in rowing or steering a boat.
 - Lewis and Clark found it difficult to use **oars** while on the Missouri.
- ❑ ORE refers to a mineral made up of several different kinds of material.
 - Miners found iron **ore** in the mountain.
- ❑ OR is a conjunction indicating choice.
 - Would you like apple juice **or** orange juice?

Brake, Break

- ❑ A BRAKE is a device used to stop a vehicle.
 - Please apply the **brakes** at a stop sign.
- ❑ A BREAK means to split, crack, or destroy.
 - Please do not **break** my pencil in half.
 - Let's take a three minute **break**.

Immigrate, emigrate, migrate

- ❑ IMMIGRATE means to come into a new country or area.
 - The Irish **immigrated** to the US due to a potato famine.
- ❑ EMIGRATE means to go out of one country to live in another.
 - The **emigration** from Ireland left the population depleted.
- ❑ Human MIGRATION means to move within a country or area.
 - We are studying westward **migration**.

Real, Very, Really

- ❑ REAL means existing, true, authentic
 - Is this a real diamond?
- ❑ Really and Very mean truly, actually, unquestionably
 - Are you really going to be out of town?
- ❑ Do not use REAL in the place of REALLY or VERY which are modifiers.
 - A cheetah is really/very fast.
 - College courses are really/very challenging.
 - I am really/very excited!