Commonly Misused Words

**Accept/Except**  
Accept - to agree to do or receive - e.g., I happily accept this book award.  
Except - not including - e.g., Everyone is going to the library except you.  
  
**Bated/Baited**  
Bated - in suspense - e.g., I waited with bated breath for the next Robert Galbraith novel.  
Baited - with bait attached - e.g., I baited my readers with the promise of a new revision blog by the end of the week.  
  
**Climactic/Climatic**  
Climactic - forming a climax - e.g., The thriller's climactic ending left me breathless.  
Climatic - relating to climate - e.g., The suspense thriller, set during monsoon season, included climatic elements such as high winds and pouring rain.  
  
**Defuse/Diffuse**  
Defuse - to make a situation less tense - e.g., The librarian had to defuse a fight over who got to shake the best selling author's hand first during a reading.  
Diffuse - spread over wide area - e.g., The librarian diffused the collection of board books, creating reading areas in every corner of the elementary school library.  
  
**Disinterested/Uninterested**  
Disinterested - impartial - e.g., Many writers have a disinterested group of beta readers, instead of a biased parent, take a look at a manuscript before sending it to an agent.  
Uninterested - not interested - e.g., The young adult novelist was typically uninterested in writing picture books.  
  
**Flaunt/Flout**  
Flaunt - to display ostentatiously - e.g., I like to flaunt my book collection by storing all my titles in wall-to-wall shelves in each and every room.  
Flout - disregard a rule - e.g., And I sometimes flout the rules and begin a sentence with a conjunction.  
  
**Loath/Loathe**  
Loath - reluctant - e.g., I am loath to put down a really good book.  
Loathe - to hate - e.g., I loathe a poorly edited manuscript.  
  
**Peek/Peak**  
Peek - to glance or look quickly - e.g., I never peek at the last page until it's time.  
Peak - highest point - e.g., J.K. Rowling is at the peak of her writing career.  
  
**Their/There/They're**  
Their - possessive - e.g., I like their book.  
There - a place - e.g., I would go there to find a book.  
They're - contraction of they and are - e.g., They're going to the library.  
  
**Your/You're/Yore**  
Your - possessive - e.g., I like your book.  
You're - contraction of you and are - e.g., You're going to the library.  
Yore - past or former times - e.g., The books of yore were written on parchment paper.  
  
**Affect/Effect**  
Easily one of the most common, if not THE most common tricky word combos. Essentially, **affect** is usually a verb, and **effect** is usually a noun, but there are exceptions. Go to Grammarly's full-length post on this for more details.