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| **Vocabulary: Problem Words** |

These words sound the same, or almost the same, and are often confused. Some of the words can be pronounced in more than one way. However, the words are spelled differently and have different meanings.

1. (a) stationary (adjective) – not moving, immobile

(b) stationery (noun) – writing materials: paper, pens, pencils

2. (a) cloth (noun) – fabric, piece of fabric

(b) clothe (verb) – to dress someone, to provide clothing for someone

3. (a) weak (adjective) – not strong or fit

(b) week (noun) – seven-day period

4. (a) mayor (noun) – head of city or town government

(b) mare (noun) – adult female horse

5. (a) tear (noun) – single drop of fluid from the eye, drop of liquid

(b) tier (noun) – layer; row or seats in rising series; level in hierarchy

6. (a) isle (noun) – island

(b) aisle (noun) – passageway between seats, goods; division in church.

7. (a) elude (verb) – escape or avoid

(b) allude (verb) – refer indirectly

8. (a) hostel (noun) – cheap inn

(b) hostile (adjective) – very unfriendly; against, aggressive

9. (a) roll (verb) – turn over and over

(b) role (noun) – acting part; specific function

10. (a) lone (adjective) – solitary; only; isolated

(b) loan (noun) – money lent

loan (verb) – to lend

11. (a) board (noun) – flat piece of wood, flat surface for particular purpose; group chosen to make

decisions

(b) bored (adjective) – tired and impatient, not interesting in something

12. (a) peel (verb) – remove outer layer of something

(b) peal (verb) - ringing of bells; noisy outburst

13. (a) reign (noun) – period of rule; control or influence

(b) reign (verb) – to rule a nation

(c) rein (noun) – strap for controlling horses

(d) rain (noun) – water falling from clouds

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| *Fill in the blanks with the correct word.* |

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|  |  | **STATIONARY** | **STATIONERY** |  |
| 1. | The firm buys its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , which includes letterhead, envelopes etc., from ABC Office  Supplies. | | | |
| 2. | The cars remained \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the crossing until the train had passed. | | | |
|  |  | **CLOTH** | **CLOTHE** |  |
| 3. | Her designer suit was made of fine, imported \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | |
| 4. | It’s expensive to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ young children today. | | | |
|  |  | **WEAK** | **WEEK** |  |
| 5. | On their vacation, they spent a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Hawaii. | | | |
| 6. | Not hearing the alarm clock is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ excuse for being late. | | | |
|  |  | **MAYOR** | **MARE** |  |
| 7. | Do you know who the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your city is? | | | |
| 8. | He rode a young \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the rodeo. | | | |
|  |  | **TEARS** | **TIERS** |  |
| 9. | The wedding cake was made up of four \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | |
| 10. | The mother of the bride wiped away her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the newlyweds cut the first piece of  cake. | | | |
|  |  | **ISLE** | **AISLE** |  |
| 11. | All heads turned as the bride walked down the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church toward the altar. | | | |
| 12. | From the terrace, they could see the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the bay. | | | |
|  |  | **ELUDE** | **ALLUDE** |  |
| 13. | The thief tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the police as he sped away from the scene of the burglary. | | | |
| 14. | In his speech, he would often \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sources of his information. | | | |
|  |  | **HOSTEL** | **HOSTILE** |  |
| 15. | He was very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he was arrested by the police. | | | |
| 16. | The travelling students stayed overnight at a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | |

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| *Fill in the blanks with the correct word. Don’t forget to conjugate the verbs when necessary.* |

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|  |  | | **ROLL** | | **ROLE** | |  | |
| 1. | They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ up their sleeping bags and packed the car to go home. | | | | | | | |
| 2. | He won an Oscar for his leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the movie. | | | | | | | |
| 3. | She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out the dough to make her piecrust. | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | **LONE** | | **LOAN** | |  | |
| 4. | He was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ survivor of the plane crash. | | | | | | | |
| 5. | I must return the three videos I have on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the video shop. | | | | | | | |
| 6. | He asked his bank manager for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to buy a new car. | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | **BOARD** | | **BORED** | |  | |
| 7. | The butcher cut the meat into thin slices on his cutting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | | | | | |
| 8. | After I listened to the speeches by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Directors for two hours, I was very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | | | | | |
| 9. | At the end of the summer, the children were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and wanted to go back to school. | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | **PEEL** | | **PEAL** | |  | |
| 10. | Carl \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the potatoes while his wife prepared the salad. | | | | | | | |
| 11. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the church bells reminded him of his wedding day. | | | | | | | |
| 12. | They suddenly heard the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of thunder just before it began to rain heavily. | | | | | | | |
|  |  | **REIGN** | | **REIN** | | **RAIN** | |  |
| 13. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fell heavily for two hours. | | | | | | | |
| 14. | His instructor told him to keep a firm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the horse. | | | | | | | |
| 15. | That king will always be remembered for his long \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | | | | | |