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| **Vocabulary: Problem Words** |

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| The words in the groups below sound the same, or almost the same, and are often confused. However, they are spelled differently and have different meanings.  1. (a) cereal (noun) – crop plant with edible grain; breakfast food.  (b) serial (noun) – story in parts; regular newspaper or magazine.  serial (adjective) – in a series; produced in parts.  2. (a) access (noun) – entry or approach.  access (verb) – to enter.  (b) excess (noun) – surplus, extra, more than enough.  3. (a) present (noun) – gift.  (b) presence (noun) – being present.  4. (a) advice (noun) – recommendation about action; official information.  (b) advise (verb) – offer advice; recommend, inform.  5. (a) strait (noun) – naturally existing channel joining two seas.  (b) straight (adjective) – not curved, level; candid, honestly straightforward;  heterosexual (slang); immediately.  6. (a) wrap (verb) – cover something up.  (b) rap (verb/noun) – hit something sharply.  (c) rap (noun) – type of music.  7. (a) pier (noun) – seaside structure.  (b) peer (verb) – look closely.  peer (noun) – person of equal standing with another. |

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| *Fill in the blank with the correct word and make changes where necessary.* |

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|  |  | **CEREAL** | **SERIAL** |  |
| 1. | Many people start their day with a glass of juice and a bowl of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for breakfast. | | | |
| 2. | The last episode of that TV \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be shown this week. | | | |
|  |  | **ACCESS** | **EXCESS** |  |
| 3. | By the end of our vacation, we realized that we had an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amount of clothing. | | | |
| 4. | Only the cashier has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the cash register. | | | |
|  |  | **PRESENTS** | **PRESENCE** |  |
| 5. | Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is required at the meeting this afternoon. | | | |
| 6. | Exchanging \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at Christmas is a tradition in most families. | | | |
|  |  | **ADVICE** | **ADVISE** |  |
| 7. | Her doctor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her to lose some weight. | | | |
| 8. | She should take his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and go on a diet. | | | |
|  |  | **STRAIT** | **STRAIGHT** |  |
| 9. | His mother told him to come \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ home after school. | | | |
| 10. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Dover separates Calais on the north shore of France and Dover on the  south shore of England. | | | |
| 11. | It’s difficult to draw a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ line without using a ruler. | | | |
|  |  | **WRAP** | **RAP** |  |
| 12. | The birthday gift was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so artfully she hesitated to open it. | | | |
| 13. | Listening to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the radio is her son’s favourite pastime. | | | |
| 14. | She doesn’t like people barging into her office, so please \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the door before  you enter. | | | |
|  |  | **PIER** | **PEER** |  |
| 15. | He tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through the dirty windows to see what was in the warehouse. | | | |
| 16. | Although the boat was tied to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , it broke away during the storm and drifted  out to sea. | | | |
| 17. | Adolescents are more influenced by their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than by adults. | | | |