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| **Vocabulary: Problem Words** |

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| These groups of nouns all sound the same, or almost the same, and are often confused. However, they are spelled differently and have different meanings. 1. (a) latter (noun) – second of two. (b) later (adjective) – near the end of something, later, more advanced in time. (c) later (comparative adjective) – after.2. (a) waist (noun) – body area between ribs and hips. (b) waste (verb) – use something carelessly, fail to use something.3. (a) desert (noun) – arid and barren place. (b) desert (verb) – to abandon a place or person. (c) dessert (noun) – sweet dish concluding a meal.4. (a) heir (noun) – legal inheritor of something; recipient of tradition. (b) air (noun) – gases forming atmosphere.5. (a) vain (adjective) – excessively proud; unsuccessful; empty of substance. (b) vane (noun) – rotating blade as in weather vane. (c) vein (noun) – vessel carrying blood to heart, any blood vessel; particular quality |

Make two sentences using one of the vocabulary words above. Read it aloud to another student who must write the vocabulary word on the board. The others in the group must decide if the word is written correctly.

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

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|  |  | **LATTER** | **LATER** |  |
| 1. | Mary arrived \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the others at the party. |
| 2. | He told the waiter that he preferred the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the two daily specials. |
| 3. | I must leave now, it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than I thought. |
|  |  | **WAIST** | **WASTE** |  |
| 4. | This skirt is too tight around the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |
| 5. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ baskets are emptied at the end of each day. |
| 6. | He didn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his leftover sandwich; he broke it into crumbs for the birds. |
|  |  | **DESERT** | **DESSERT** |  |
| 7. | Many families had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their homes because of the hurricane. |
| 8. | My favourite \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is pumpkin pie. |
| 9. | The climate in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is hot and dry. |
|  |  | **HEIR** | **AIR** |  |
| 10. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the city is more polluted than country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |
| 11. | She named her son \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the estate in her will. |
| 12. | The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ felt very humid before it started to rain. |
|  |  | **VAIN** | **VANE** | **VEIN** |  |
| 13. | The newspaper article was written in a humourous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |
| 14. | The weather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the top of the barn is pointing north. |
| 15. | She was too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about her hair to go swimming. |
| 16. | They took a blood sample from a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in her arm. |