the most important (adjective)
The principal ingredient in bread is flour.

used in comparisons
This class is harder than the last one.

past tense of “to throw”
She accidentally threw away the postcard.

the possessive form of “they”
I went to their dorm.

combination of “they” and “are”
They’re doing homework right now.

at a certain place
Please, leave the book over there.

refers to something
I bought that at the swap meet.

personal pronoun
Be someone who inspires others.

specifies one(s) out of a group
Which history class do you have?

provides additional information
I love my car, which is pink.

shows direction
I went to school there.

used in comparisons
The score is ten to eight.

until
They danced from midnight to sunrise.

before
I’ll be there at ten to eight.

the number between 1 and 3
It takes two to tango.

overly
It’s too hot to go outside.

also
She is a student, too.

combination of “we” and “are”
We’re going to take a break.

possessive form of the pronoun “who”
Whose line is it, anyway?

subject in a sentence, the one doing the action
Jamie is the kid who stole the cookies.

the possessive form of the pronoun “you”
He borrowed your camera for the weekend.

past tense of “to be”
We were just at In-N-Out the other night.

combination of “who” and “is”
Who’s going to the birthday party?

object in the sentence, who receives the action
With whom were you hoping to speak?
Commonly Confused Words

By intentionally organizing your paper, you can demonstrate how your ideas connect. Transitional phrases can help your readers understand the flow of your ideas by telling how the ideas relate to each other on a sentence level. The following are examples of transition words.

**affect**
usually a verb—to act on or influence a situation
That bad call will affect the game.
sometimes a noun—a state of emotion or desire, especially one influencing behavior or action
The counselor observed the patient’s affect.

**effect**
usually a noun—the result
The trip had an effect on them.
a title that refers to a phenomenon
Our class discussed the Doppler Effect.
sometimes a verb—to bring about
I want to effect change.

**a lot**
two distinct words meaning “a significant amount”
He ate a lot of pizza.

**alot**
(not a word)

**altogether**
entirely
The presentation was altogether excellent.

**all together**
everything or everyone in its right place
The kids were all together in the living room.

**capital**
a seat of government
The capital of California is Sacramento.
financial resources
Starting a new business requires a lot of capital.

**everyday**
commonplace, ordinary, normal (adjective)
For most, having dinner is an everyday occurrence.

**its**
the possessive form of “it”
The lion winced at the thorn in its paw.

**led**
past tense of “to lead”
Dr. Wallace led the students on a hike.

**lie**
to lie oneself down (a person or animal)
“I’m exhausted from the trip, so I’m going to lie down.”

**lay**
the past tense of “lie”
I had a headache, so I went and lay down.
to set an object down
“Lay your weapons down!”

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