

## Using Lists of Words to Improve Spelling

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The following lists of words misspelled in student papers were compiled a few years ago by New York State. Of the more than 31,000 misspelled words gathered by English teachers throughout the country, 407 were misspelled more frequently than others. These words are arranged in the checklist in descending order of difficulty. Study the list carefully. It will help if you have someone read the words aloud to you so that you can try to spell them without looking at them.

### ✓ **CHECKLIST: WORDS MOST FREQUENTLY MISPELLED**

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#### **WORDS MISPELLED 100 TIMES OR MORE**

believe	lose	receive
belief	losing	receiving
benefit	necessary	referring
benefited	unnecessary	separate
beneficial	occasion	separation
choose	occur	similar
chose	occurred	success
choice	occurring	succeed
definite	occurrence	succession
definitely	perform	than
definition	performance	then
define	personal	their
description	personnel	they're
describe	precede	there
environment	principle	too
exist	principal	two
existence	privilege	to
existent	professor	write
its	profession	writing
it's		writer

#### **WORDS MISPELLED 50 TO 99 TIMES**

accommodate	affective	apparent
achieve	all right*	argument
achievement	among	arguing
acquire	analyze	began
affect	analysis	begin

\* Although some dictionaries accept the spelling alright, most list it as nonstandard usage. Most college teachers regard alright as a misspelling.