



12 Words Often Misused

Literally

- What it means: Actually, exactly, without exaggeration
- Used incorrectly:

She literally exploded with laughter.

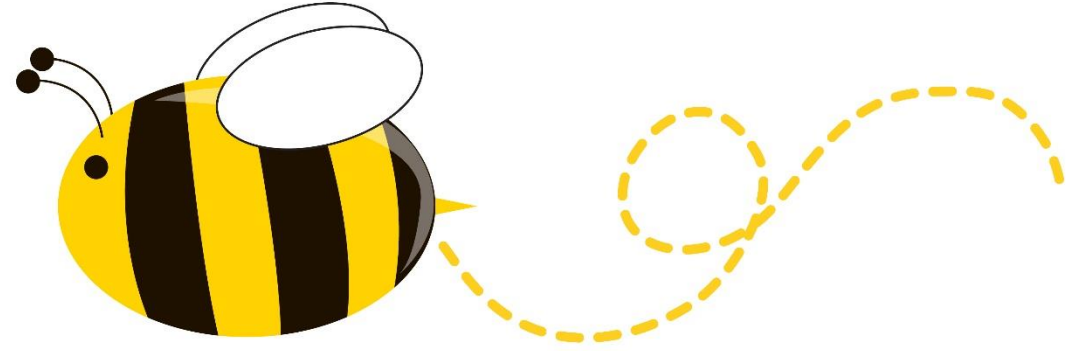
- Used correctly:

The egg literally exploded in the microwave.



Factoid

**IT'S A
FACT!**



- What it means: A false fact.
- Used incorrectly:

It is a little factoid that the Earth needs bees.

- Used correctly:

It is a factoid the Earth will be fine without bees!

Irregardless



- What it means: There's no correct meaning because "irregardless" is not a real word! (although there is some controversy here..)
- Used incorrectly:

Students can achieve these standards irregardless of ability, background, or prior knowledge.

- Used correctly:

Students can achieve these standards regardless of ability, background, or prior knowledge.

Entitled

- What it means: Having, or believing that you have, the right to something.

- Used incorrectly:

The best movie in the world is entitled 'The Lion King'.

- Used correctly:

The best movie in the world is titled 'The Lion King'.

Poisonous

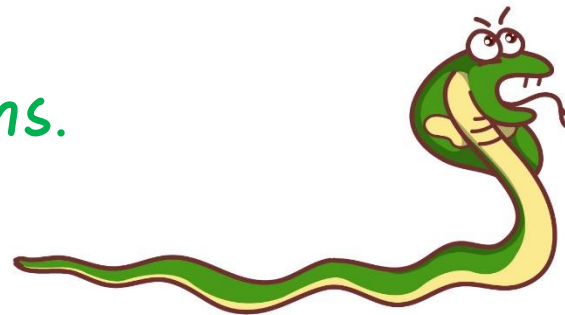
- What it means: Something that will poison you, but only if you eat it.

- Used incorrectly:

I ran away from the poisonous snake!

- Used correctly:

Don't eat those poisonous mushrooms.



Ironic

- What it means: Something that is the exact opposite of what you would expect.
- Used incorrectly:

It's ironic that just as I step out of the house to go for a walk, it starts to pour with rain!

- Used correctly:

It's ironic that she became a teacher—she used to hate school.



Inflammable

- What it means: Flammable

- Used incorrectly:

Wear inflammable pyjamas when sitting in front of the fire.

- Used correctly:

When camping, take care lighting stoves - tents are highly flammable. (or inflammable...)



As comedian George Carlin put it, "Flammable... inflammable... non-inflammable. Why are there three of them? Either it flams or it doesn't!"

Bemused

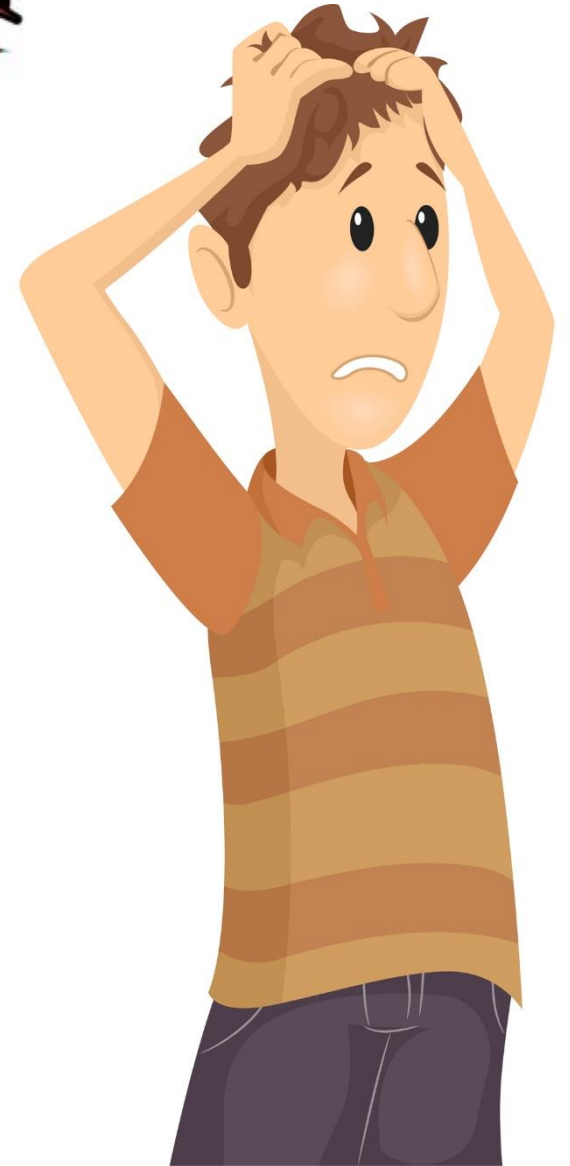


- What it means: Confused or bewildered
- Used incorrectly:

He laughed at the comedian, bemused by his Irish jokes.

- Used correctly:

After watching the confusing movie, the friends were bemused.



Invariably



- What it means: in every case or occasion
- Used incorrectly:

Invariably, Mr T is late for meetings. (only OK if he is late for EVERY, SINGLE meeting!)

- Used correctly:

The headmaster invariably starts meetings with 'Hi Folks!'.

Averse

- What it means: reluctant
- Used incorrectly:

Due to averse weather conditions, the barbecue has been cancelled.
(Adverse means unfavourable)

- Used correctly:

I'm averse to partying during the week when I need to get up early!

I'M FEELING
RELUCTANT....



Farther

- What it means: refers to a physical distance.
- Used incorrectly:
“Move further away from the cliff edge!”
- Used correctly:
“Move farther away from the cliff edge!”



Hopefully

- When it should be used:
- Use 'hopefully' only if you're describing the way someone spoke, appeared, or acted.

- Used incorrectly:

Hopefully, she says yes. (It should be 'I hope she says yes.')

- Used correctly:

She eyed the engagement ring hopefully.

