



# English words confusing for Polish learners

A mini-lesson made by: [Outside the Box](#)

# borrow VS lend

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**TO BORROW** → to get something from somebody for some time.

**TO LEND** → to give something to somebody for some time.

Example:

*I really have to borrow your car. Could you please lend me your car?*

# call VS summon

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**TO SUMMON** → the act of summoning; a call by authority, or by the command of a superior, to appear at a place named, or to attend to some duty. To request.

**TO CALL** → to give name to; to name; to address, or speak of, by a specified name.

Examples:

*The result has been called the biggest human upheaval since the Second World War.*

*So why is a CEO such as Marissa Mayer summoning Yahoo staff back into the office?*

# suspend VS hang VS intermit

**TO HANG** → to fasten to some elevated point without support from below; -- often used with up or out. To die or be put to death by suspension from the neck.

**TO SUSPEND** → to cause to cease for a time; to hinder from proceeding; to interrupt; to delay; to stay. To make to depend.

**TO INTERMIT** → to cease for a time or at intervals; to moderate; as a fever; to block or pause.

## Examples:

*Following symptoms may refer to: permanent or intermitting stridor in the stenoses of the large respiratory tract (trachea and main bronchi), that is diagnosed as the most frequent anomaly.*

*There is a special kind of a diet when you intermit fasting.*

*The officer remains suspended and is expected to face a disciplinary hearing.*

*We must not suspend these negotiations.*

*It normally hangs outside the security council chamber.*

# match VS fit VS suit

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**TO MATCH** → refers to general style or traits, means things go well with each other;

**TO FIT** → refers to size and shape of something; means the clothes are the right measurements for you (not too long or short). emphasises how you'd fill a gap in something;

**TO SUIT** → emphasises personal preference 'match' For example, 'the pink of the shoes matches the highlights in the collar of the shirt'.

Examples:

*We match with Alex, ,cause our personalities are similar.*

*Your idea suits me, I won't argue.*

*I lost some weight and now my favourite jumper fits me perfectly once again.*

# feel VS sense

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**TO FEEL** → To use the sense of touch. To become aware of something through the skin; to use the sense of touch on. Also: get something by emotions.

**TO SENSE** → Perception through the intellect; apprehension; recognition; understanding; discernment; appreciation, to get something by senses (like smell, sight, hearing) or intuition.

Example:

*With the first frost, they could sense a change in the days.*

*I'm feeling cold.*

# throw VS cast VS dart VS toss vs dump

**TO TOSS** → has a more casual, lighter, informal, it has some sexual and slang connotations but no point in going into those here, **quick gentle movement** of your hand

**TO THROW** → is a more powerful and deliberate action.

**TO CAST** → cause (light or shadow) to appear on a surface.

**TO DART** → to move quickly and suddenly; to attack

**TO DUMP** → to resign from something, to break up with somebody, to quit

Examples:

*Toss a coin to your witcher*

I threw a brick through the window. She threw all her emotions into turmoil.

The moon cast a pale light over the cottages.

*I darted behind the sofa and hid.*

# dream VS sleep

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**TO DREAM** → to imagine events, to see things in the mind

**TO SLEEP** → to be in a state of reduced consciousness during which a human or animal rests

Examples:

*I go to sleep.*

*I had a dream.*

# cake VS pie VS dough VS pastry

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**PIE** → defined as a baked food in a pastry-lined pan or dish that has a fruit, meat, pudding, or other **filling**,

**A CAKE** → is a sweet, baked, **breadlike** food, made with or without shortening, and usually containing flour, sugar, **baking powder** or soda, eggs, and liquid flavoring.

**DOUGH** → flour or meal combined with water, milk, etc., in a mass for baking into bread, cake, etc.; **raw** paste of bread; any similar soft, pasty mass.

Examples:

*She kneaded the dough and left it to rise.*

*An apple pie.*

*I ate the whole birthday cake!*

# leap VS skip VS jump VS hop

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**TO JUMP** → is a action performed by pushing yourself off the ground using your feet.

**TO LEAP** → is a large jump from one place to another.

**TO HOP** → to bounce up off the surface, usually on one foot and land again a short distance away on the same foot.

**TO SKIP** → fail to attend or deal with as appropriate; miss or avoid something. Stepping from one foot to the other with a hop or bounce.

Example:

*We leapt over the stream. The leap of faith.*

*Never skip your breakfast.*

*I jumped very high.*

# shade VS shadow

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**Shade** → Darkness where light, particularly sunlight, is blocked. Something that blocks light, particularly in a window.

**A SHADOW** → A dark image projected onto a surface where light (or other radiation) is blocked by the shade of an object.

Examples:

*A shadow is shade within clear boundaries.*

*The sun was hot, and there were no trees to offer us shade.*

*The children were playing, jumping on each other's shadows.*

# among vs among vs between

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**AMONG/AMONGS** → refers to something that is surrounded by more than two object; being in a middle of a group.

**BETWEEN** → in a middle of two objects.

A few theories claim that "**among**" is more commonly used in American English, while British English tends to prefer "**amongst**" as a tradition from a past period of the English vocabulary evolution.

Examples:

*There was nothing between you and him.*

*She's sitting among her classmates.*

# every VS each

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**EVERY** → refers to a group of objects or people lumped together as one.

**EACH** → refers to an individual object or person

## Examples:

Every side of the story is interesting, but each character has a different story to tell.

There are 40 students in every class, and each class has two groups, A and B.

# assure VS ensure

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**TO ASSURE** → To assure someone is to remove someone's doubts; to promise

**TO ENSURE** → To ensure something is to make sure it happens—to guarantee it or to take care of it.

Examples:

*Natalie was super worried that we'd be late, but I assured her that we'd make it on time. My dog seemed scared to go to the vet, so I assured her that everything would be okay.*

*Ensure that you are given the ticket at the entrance. Lewis worked hard on his fitness all year to ensure that he won the racing championship.*

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