

Name: _____

Commonly Confused Words – Vol. 1

In their writing, students often seem to mix up the following word pairs (or trios). Look at these word groups and see if you understand the differences between the words in each. If you need help or reassurance, look up the words in Evergreen, Chapter 35 (461- 472), or the SHHS Handbook (22-25), or look up the words in the dictionary. (Numbers 17, 19, and 20 are not in Evergreen or the Handbook.) For any word that gives you trouble, use the space below the word to write the part of speech and a short definition. Try to think of a mnemonic device (memory trick) to help you remember how to distinguish the words in these groups.

1. *accept/ except*

11. *to/ too/ two*

2. *affect/ effect*

12. *use/ used*

3. *your/ you're*

13. *whether/ weather*

4. *it's/ its*

14. *whose/ who's*

5. *then/ than*

15. *principal/ principle*

6. *lose/ loose*

16. *which/ witch*

7. *past/ passed*

17. *idol/ idle*

8. *suppose/ supposed*

18. *counsel(or)/ council(or)*

9. *course/ coarse*

19. *stationery/ stationary*

10. *their/ there/ they're*

20. *sight/ site/cite*

