

Support for English Learners

Unit 35, page 222: Words Often Confused

Some students may have difficulty with some English words that have similar sounds and spellings.

Listen

Say: *Some English words can be confusing because they have similar sounds and spellings. Say the Basic Words **desert** (dĕz ər̩t) and **dessert** (dĕs zĕrt) aloud. Then say: Listen while I use both of these words in sentences. There is little water in the desert. We will have fruit for dessert.* Emphasize the difference in pronunciation between *desert* and *dessert*.

Continue with Basic Word pairs *hearty* and *hardy*, and *conscious* and *conscience*.

Speak and Read

Say: *Let's practice saying the Basic Words **desert** and **dessert**: *desert, dessert*. Have students repeat the words after you. Write *desert* and *dessert* on the board as you spell them aloud. Call on students to pronounce and spell each word as you point to it. Have a volunteer explain the meanings of these two words to the class.*

Repeat with Basic Word pairs *hearty* and *hardy*, and *conscious* and *conscience*.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Write the Basic Word pairs *morall/morale*, *precede/proceed*, and *lying/laying* on the board. Give a set of letter cards to each student and ask partners to combine their cards to spell out the word pairs. Have volunteers write one of their word pairs on the board. Tell students to copy the correctly spelled word pairs into their word-study notebooks.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Draw the chart below on the board. Beside the chart, list these Basic Words: *bizarre*, *bazaar*, *personal*, *personnel*, *immigrate*, *emigrate*, *laying*, *lying*, *formally*, and *formerly*. Ask students to copy the chart into their word-study notebooks and then complete it by writing the correct Basic Word to complete each word pair.

	emigrate
bizarre	
	formerly
	lying
personal	

Intermediate/Advanced Have students choose three word pairs from the Basic Words and write a sentence using each word in their word-study notebooks. Ask students to read their sentences aloud. Ask: *Which Basic Word pair did you choose? How do you spell those words? What do they mean?* Encourage students to write the definitions the class discusses in their notebooks next to the Basic Words.