

Quick Quiz on Commonly Confused Words

1. **Allude or Elude**
I have never been more struck by the good sense and the practical judgment of the Americans than in the ingenious devices by which they _____ the numberless difficulties resulting from their Federal Constitution. (Alexis de Tocquville)
2. **Imply or Infer**
The fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not _____ that all who are laughed at are geniuses. (Carl Sagan)
3. **Later or Latter**
When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now, and soon I shall be so I cannot remember any but the _____. (Mark Twain)
4. **Principal or Principle**
Today as I look back on that opening game of my first World Series, I must tell you that it was Mr. Rickey's drama and that I was only a _____ actor. (Jackie Robinson)
5. **Racked or Wracked**
He _____ his brains to remember, but he could not call to mind a single thing! (Andrew Lang)
6. **Sensual or Sensuous**
The beauty of Moroccan palaces is made up of details of ornament and refinements of _____ delight too numerous to record. (Edith Wharton)
7. **Shear or Sheer**
English usage is sometimes more than mere taste, judgment, and education--sometimes it's _____ luck, like getting across a street. (E.B. White)
8. **Simple or Simplistic**
Marx, Darwin and Freud are the three most crashing bores of the Western World. _____ popularization of their ideas has thrust our world into a mental straitjacket from which we can only escape by the most anarchic violence. (William Golding)
9. **Temerity or Timidity**
The first symptom of true love in a young man is _____; in a young woman, it is boldness. (Victor Hugo)
10. **Who or Whom**
_____ the gods wish to destroy they first call promising. (Cyril Connolly)**Only for Teachers**

Answers:

1. elude
2. imply
3. latter
4. principal
5. racked
6. sensuous
7. sheer
8. Simplistic
9. timidity
10. Whom