Words you may confuse

A. Similar sounds

**quite/quiet**
This book is quite good. /kwɑt/ [fairly good / very good]
My bedroom is very quiet. /kwɑt.st/ [silent / no noise]

**lose/loose**
A: Why do I always lose my keys? /luz/
B: Here they are.
If you lose something, you do not know where it is / you can’t find it.
This ring is very loose. /lus/ [Loose means it is not tight, because it is too big.]

**fell/felt**
Fell is the past tense of fall.
Yesterday I fell and broke my arm.
Felt is the past tense of feel.
I felt sick yesterday, but I feel fine today.

B. Similar or related meanings

**lend/borrow**
If you lend something, you give it.
If you borrow something, you get/take it.
Sam wants to use Rita’s bicycle:
SAM: Will you lend me your bicycle?
[You give it to me for a day / an hour.]
or Can I borrow your bicycle? [I get it from you.]
RITA: Yes, take it.
SAM: Thanks.

**miss/lose**
I got up late and missed the bus / missed my class.
[You didn’t do something that was planned.]
I lost my homework on the way to class.
[You can’t find it.]

C. Other words often mixed up

The afternoon is from 12 noon until about 5 or 6 p.m.
The evening is from 5 or 6 p.m. until about 9 or 10 p.m.
After 9 or 10 p.m. it is the night.
I hope I pass my exams. [I really want to pass.]
I have not studied; I expect I'll fail my exams.
[It's probable or likely.]
Exercises

27.1 Fill in the blanks with words from A on page 56. The first letter of the word is given.
1. Please be quiet. The baby is sleeping.
2. If you lost your passport, you have to call the embassy.
3. I felt tired this morning, but I am OK now.
4. She fell and broke her leg. She had to go to the hospital.
5. It’s quite cold today. Brrrr!
6. These shoes are very long. I need smaller ones.

27.2 Circle the correct answer.
1. Quite has a) one syllable b) two syllables
2. Quiet has a) one syllable b) two syllables
3. The last sound of loose sounds like a) s b) z
4. The last sound of lose sounds like a) s b) z

27.3 Answer these questions.
1. If you want to use someone’s camera for two hours, what do you say?
   Can I borrow your camera?
2. What do you say if someone makes too much noise? Please be quiet.
3. What do you say if you are going to a concert but can’t find the tickets you bought? I’ve lost them.
4. What do you say to someone at 2 p.m.? Good afternoon.
5. What do you say to a friend if you need 35 cents to make a phone call? Can you find some change?
6. What do you say if you arrive at work late because your train left without you? Sorry I’m late.

27.4 Answer these questions about yourself.
1. Are you expecting any visitors today?
2. What do you hope to do with this book?
3. Do you ever borrow things from your friends? What things?
4. Would you lend your best friend $500?
5. How do you feel today? How did you feel yesterday?

You can find other frequently confused words in these units in this book:
- Do and make Units 5 and 6
- Take and bring Units 8 and 9
- Say and tell Unit 13
- Speak and talk Unit 13
- Rob and steal Unit 57