

There is often confusion over the words accept and except. They sound similar, but their meanings are very different.

Accept

'To accept' is a **verb**. It has several meanings:

To hold something as true.

▣ The officer accepts your point and has decided to let you off with a caution. ✓

▣ I accept she may have been tired, but that's still no excuse. ✓

To receive something willingly.

▣ I accept this award on behalf of the whole cast. ✓

▣ Do you accept dogs in your hotel? ✓

▣ Please accept my resignation. I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member. ✓ (Groucho Marx)

To answer 'yes' (especially to an invitation).

▣ The minister would love to accept the invitation to your ball, but she has a prior engagement. ✓

Except

The word 'except' is most commonly seen as a **preposition**. However, it can also be used as a **conjunction** and very occasionally as a **verb**.

Except as a preposition means 'apart from', 'not including' or 'excluding'.

▣ I can resist everything except temptation. ✓ (Oscar Wilde)

▣ I have nothing to declare except my genius. ✓ (Oscar Wilde)

▶ Marge, don't discourage the boy! Weaseling out of things is important to learn. It's what separates us from the animals...except the weasel. ✓ (Homer Simpson)

▶ It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried. ✓ (Winston Churchill)

Except as a conjunction means 'but' or 'if not the fact that'.

▶ I would go swimming, except I am scared of big fish. ✓

Except as a verb means 'to exclude'.

▶ You are excepted from the ruling. ✓