Here are clarifications for words that are similar, confusing, or often misused.

**A lot** should never be used in formal writing. In formal writing, use words such as "much," "often," or "plenty."

Rather than, "I ate a lot of pizza this weekend," try...

I ate plenty of pizza this weekend.

**A part** (noun) means a piece or segment. **A part** (adverb) means separate or detached.

Caroline is apart from her family since she’s moved to college to be a part of an exclusive sorority.

**Affect** (verb) means influence whereas **effect** (noun) means result.

Protests may affect government policy.

Protests may have an effect on government policy.

**Effect** (verb) may also mean bring about.

Protests effected change in government policy.

**Comparative** words (-er, less, more) and "between" should be used when comparing two things. **Superlative** words (-est, least, most) and "among" are used when comparing three or more things.
Good (adj.) means okay or not bad. Well (adverb) means in a capable manner.

I am good at writing.
I write well.

Well (adj.) can also mean in good health.

I am not feeling well.

Similarly, bad is an adjective while badly is an adverb.

I am bad at writing.
I write badly.

Amount, less, and much are used for describing things you can’t count (money, nature, happiness).

I have so much rice.
You have less rice than I do.

Number, fewer, and many are associated with things you can count (dollars, critters, smiles).

I have so many grains of rice.
You have fewer grains of rice than I do.

Adapted from:
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