Easily confused words

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each advanced pair with the distinction.

1 imply / infer	____	a complete or enhance / express praise
2 assume / presume	____	b suggest indirectly / reach a conclusion from evidence
3 adapt / adopt	____	c relating to the economy / avoiding waste or expense
4 complement / compliment	____	d happening repeatedly / happening without interruption
5 continual / continuous	____	e take for granted / suppose with some supporting probability
6 economic / economical	____	f producing the intended result / working with minimal waste
7 effective / efficient	____	g modify for a purpose / take up or accept
8 alternate / alternative	____	h occurring in turns / offering another option

2 Complete the precision collocations.

adapt | alternate | assume | complement | continuous | economic | efficient | infer

1 _____ a text for younger readers

2 _____ the figures are accurate

3 _____ a conclusion from the figures

4 _____ the main course perfectly

5 provide _____ monitoring

6 support _____ recovery

7 design an energy-_____ system

8 meet on _____ Fridays

3 Choose the most precise word.

1 Her silence may *imply / infer* disagreement.

2 From the data, we can *infer / imply* a trend.

3 The committee will *adopt / adapt* the revised policy.

4 The blue border *complements / compliments* the photograph.

5 The machine ran *continuously / continually* without stopping.

6 A small fuel-efficient car is *economical / economic*.

7 The treatment was *effective / efficient* because symptoms disappeared.

8 We need an *alternative / alternate* route during closure.

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4 Complete the project review with words from the box.

adapt | adopt | alternative | assume | complement | continual | economic | efficient

The team decided to **1** _____ an existing method but **2** _____ it for local conditions. They did not **3** _____ that the cheapest design would be best. Instead, they compared its wider **4** _____ impact and chose an energy-**5** _____ system. New lighting would **6** _____ the natural materials. Because **7** _____ repairs had disrupted the old building, they also developed an **8** _____ plan for temporary closure.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

What writers imply, readers infer

A report may imply that a project failed without stating this directly. Readers infer that conclusion from selected facts, tone and omissions. The two verbs describe opposite sides of communication: the source implies; the receiver infers. Confusing them can hide who produced an interpretation. Precise writing identifies whether an idea was encoded in the message or constructed by the audience from evidence.

1 Must an implied idea be stated directly? _____

2 What may readers use to infer a conclusion? _____

3 Who implies? _____

4 Who infers? _____

5 What can confusion between the verbs hide? _____

6 What distinction should precise writing identify? _____

6 Correct the confused word.

1 We implied from the figures that costs rose. _____

2 The editor adopted the article for young readers. _____

3 She complemented me on the clear design. _____

4 The alarm sounded continuously throughout the week at random times. ___

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** editing note explaining four subtle word distinctions and why each error changes the meaning.

[ ] Use at least eight target words. [ ] Explain direction or nuance. [ ] Supply natural corrections.

Easily confused words

ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced distinctions

1 **b** 2 **e** 3 **g** 4 **a** 5 **d** 6 **c** 7 **f** 8 **h**

2 Precision collocations

1 **adapt** 2 **assume** 3 **infer** 4 **complement** 5 **continuous** 6 **economic** 7 **efficient** 8 **alternate**

3 Precise choices

1 **imply** 2 **infer** 3 **adopt** 4 **complements**
5 **continuously** 6 **economical** 7 **effective** 8 **alternative**

4 Project review

1 **adopt** 2 **adapt** 3 **assume** 4 **economic** 5 **efficient** 6 **complement** 7 **continual** 8 **alternative**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 No. 2 Facts, tone and omissions. 3 The source. 4 The receiver.
5 Who produced the interpretation. 6 Encoded meaning versus audience inference.

6 Corrections

1 We **inferred** from the figures that costs rose. 2 The editor **adapted** the article.
3 She **complimented** me. 4 The alarm sounded **continually** throughout the week.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check semantic direction, nuance and natural usage.