

Name: _____

Commonly Confused Words: Waist vs. Waste

Waist and *waste* sound alike, but their meanings are different.

Waist is a noun meaning the part of the middle of the body above the hips or the part of clothing that covers that area.

Example 1: She put her arm around her mother's **waist**.

Example 2: The **waist** of the dress was too tight.

Waste may be used as a verb, noun or adjective. When it is a verb, it means to use carelessly or to weaken. As a noun it means something ruined or not wanted, like trash, or something used carelessly. As an adjective it means no longer useful.

Example 1: You should not **waste** water.

Example 2: The sick man may **waste** away.

Example 3: Nothing was left of the house but a burned **waste**.

Example 4: It's a **waste** of time to think about the mistakes of the past.

Example 5: Put the papers in the **waste** can.

Choose *waist* or *waste* to complete each sentence.

1. As he crossed the river, the water rose to his _____.
2. The nurse watched her patient _____ away from the disease.
3. Don't _____ your breath trying to change my mind.
4. Around his _____ Santa Claus wears a black belt.
5. We must hurry because there is no time to _____.
6. The dancer lifted his partner by her _____ high into the air.
7. She hated to _____ her money on such a silly hat.
8. When he lost weight the _____ of his pants was too big.
9. The _____ basket was filled to the top.
10. Clara's dress was blue with a red sash at the _____.

Name: _____ **Key**

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