

**OVER may indicate a) an excess of something, or b) something that covers or dominates something, or c) crossing some kind of barrier**

EXCESS: That film was overrated in my opinion. It was a bad restaurant with an overpriced menu.

COVER: You can overwrite the existing file or save it as a new file. Our garden is overshadowed by the apartments next door. She always felt overshadowed by her older more successful sister.

CROSS: He overstepped his authority when he tried to fire you. Will you be staying overnight.

1. Name something that is overrated.
2. Name an item that you think is overpriced.
3. Did you ever feel overshadowed by an older or more successful sibling? Talk about it.

**UNDER may indicate a) less than the desired amount, or b) something below another thing or c) some kind of negative behavior.**

LESS: Don't underestimate the time it will take to finish. This company is seriously understaffed.

BELOW: The children have been underfoot all day today. It was so muddy underfoot that we had to walk slowly. The underlying question is whether he meant to do it.

NEGATIVE: I wish you would not undermine me when I try to discipline the children. He asked her in a very underhanded way.

**UP can suggest a change of some kind, often positive.** EX: The airline upgraded me to business class. There has been an upturn in the economy the last few months.

**CROSS usually indicates a link between two separated things.** EX: Cross-border cooperation has led to a number of arrests of drug smugglers. Cross-cultural misunderstandings often happen.

1. Have you been a victim of a cross-cultural misunderstanding?
2. How often has your seat been upgraded when flying?
3. Is your country experiencing an upturn or downturn in the economy?

**CON often suggests mixing things together.** It often occurs in verbs of communication: converse condolences congeal contaminate  
EX:

1. He fell in beside her and they began to converse amicably.
2. We offered sincere condolences to his widow.
3. He had been dead a long time because his blood had begun to congeal.
4. The site was contaminated by radiation.

1. Is it easy for you to converse with strangers?
2. Jello is an example of something that congeals when refrigerated. Have you ever eaten jello?
3. What do you do to avoid food contamination in your kitchen?

**What vocabulary word fits these situations?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The hotel gave me a luxury room instead of the regular room I booked.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ There aren't enough workers.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ It would be a mistake to think John is less intelligent than he really is.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ We told her how sorry we were to hear of her tragedy.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The man pointed at me. I was really insulted. That is rude in my culture.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ He secretly called some of my clients and convinced them he would be a better agent.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The attendance at our concerts has really increased.