

TOP TEN LIST

TEN BEST MISPELLED WORDS IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH THAT AREN'T PICKED UP BY SPELLCHECKERS

With apologies to David Letterman, and thanks for editorial assistance to Elizabeth Kirby and for their insights to the following Internet contributors:

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Top Ten List: Ten Best Misspelled Words in MCH Missed By Spellcheckers

Number 10 A Space, or Spacing Out?

What you meant to type:

Therapist

What you actually typed:

The rapist

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Number 9

“I thought they knew exactly what I was thinking!”

Recently seen in an NIH grant application submitted by a researcher who will not here be identified:

“Our protocol was reviewed and approved by our university’s **Intuitional** Review Board.”

Most campuses hold the line at having only an **Institutional** Review Board.

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Number 8

The moral economy of research

While most research projects are lead by a chief researcher, only the exceptional studies have someone dedicated to examining the philosophical issues involved in the research.

This individual is identified as the **Principle** Investigator, while most other studies only have a **Principial** Investigator.

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Number 7

Did I just say a ‘faux pas’ (pronounced ‘fox paw’)?

We’d better start teaching our children values and manners before they are born, or we’ll have a high . . .

Infant **Morality** Rate (for Infant **Mortality** Rate)

And stillbirth should not be referred to as . . .

Fatal death (for **Fetal** death)

One of these terms is used in perinatal health care, the other is . . . An oxymoron!

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Number 6

‘Madam I’m Adam’ is not an anagram . . .*

But these commonly used words are:

parental – **prenatal** – **paternal**

incest – **nicest**

stressed – **desserts**

*it is a palindrome.

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Number 5

You say potato, and I say potatoe*

In the dictionary your word processor uses, be sure to save some misspelled words. That way, you'll be sure they're missed if you proof your draft only with spellcheck. One prolific researcher kept having the word '**helath**' in his documents – and it took him more than a year to figure out that he had inadvertently saved this word in his dictionary.

*with no apologies to Dan Quayle

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Number 4

Association or Relationship?

Casual for **Causal** as in Causal Relationship

Sometimes, causal relationships culminate in

Martial status for **Marital** status, as in the words of the Garth Brooks song, 'Two of a kind, working on a full house':

“... Sometimes we fight, just so we can make up”

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Number 3 Congenial Anomalies

- ◆ Double elevator palsy
- ◆ Congenital segmented male
- ◆ Invasion of chromosome 19
- ◆ Vehicular septal defect
- ◆ Abducted big toe
- ◆ Transportation of great vessels
- ◆ Bugle in midline abdomen
- ◆ Persistent Rot
- ◆ Skin tag between ears
- ◆ Cleft legs
- ◆ Cranio-rectal stenosis

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Number 2 Caught Out by One Letter

Pubic for **Public** (as in Pubic Health)

Public for **Pubic** (as in Public Area, perhaps written in a SANE case report)

Heath for **Health** (as in Public Health)

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Number 1

“Think – before you act!”

Preconceptual – for **Preconceptional**

Rarely do we really mean ‘just before we had that thought’!

Or perhaps it does . . .

Data **insemination** – for Data **dissemination**

