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AAO Employee Intranet Blog Post

As the company's grammar guru and word nerd, I was asked to write a monthly column for our employee intranet to address items from our house writing style guide. This was my post to explain the difference between "log in" and "login," which are so often misused.

PRO TIP: A GRAMMAR STORY

Log and In: A Love Story

By Karen Cristello

Did you know that "log in" and "login" have different meanings? This is one of the most commonly seen mistakes on websites. Here's how you can remember the difference.

The grammar: "Log" is a verb and "in" is a preposition. Alone, they have their own meanings, but together, they make a new meaning. This kind of verb + preposition pair is called a phrasal verb or two-word verb. Other phrasal verbs include catch up, let down and take after. Example: "Log in at aao.org." "Login" can be a noun (by itself) or an adjective (preceding a noun). For example, "I forgot my **login**" (noun) or "I forgot my **login ID**" (adjective).



The story: Once upon a time, there was a lonely verb named Log and a sad preposition named In. They both felt like they had a lot of potential and wanted more out of life. One day, their paths crossed and it was love at first sight. They got married right away and took each others' names to become **Log In**. In their new **phrasal verb log in** partnership, they found so much more meaning in life. Finally, humans were able to **log in** to computers and accounts and websites!

Log's and In's passion soon created bouncing baby twins, who they named **Login** and **Login** (they really liked that name!). But they were fraternal, not identical, so, though they looked similar, they had different life objectives. **Noun Login** proved to be a very independent thing, and made humans' lives easier by not having to say "username and password" every time. **Adjective Login**, however, was a social butterfly and always wanted to attach to noun friends. Best noun comrades ID, Credentials and Screen all gushed lovingly, "It would be impossible to describe ourselves accurately without Login's devoted bond."

The end.

Do you have grammar questions for a future Academy Focus post? Send them to kcristello@aao.org.