

APSU Writing Center

Desert and Dessert

Word	Desert	Dessert
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a dry area with very little precipitation and very few animals and plants • to abandon, empty, leave 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the last course of the meal that usually consists of something sweet

Desert is a dry, barren area of land, especially one covered with sand, that is characteristically desolate, waterless, and without vegetation. It also means to abandon, empty, and leave.

- Example: A true friend will never **desert** you when you need a helping hand.
- Example: The **desert** is so arid that nothing can grow there.
- Example: We went to the **desert** and ate a dessert.
 - Hint: The ‘Sahara Desert’ is a ‘desert.’ Notice the single ‘s.’

Dessert is the sweet course eaten at the end of a meal.

- Example: I thought we’d have strawberries and cream for **dessert**.
- Example: There’s nothing like a luxurious **dessert** to give a menu a final flourish.
 - Hint: The extra “s” is in the food because you will always want more.
 - Hint: ‘Strawberry shortcake’ is a ‘dessert’. Notice two ‘s’s.’

Cacao and Cocoa

Word	Cacao	Cocoa	Coco
Definition	the tree that bears cacao seeds, which are contained in large, oval pods that grow on the trunk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • products that are related to or made from cocoa • hot chocolate-flavored drink 	short for coconut

Cacao is a plant and is often referred to by the beans of the cacao tree. When you call something a cacao product you mean that it is made from non-roasted cacao seeds.

- Example: **Cacao** trees grow well as understory plants in humid forest ecosystems.
- Example: Chocolate comes from the **cacao** tree.

Cocoa describes products that are related to or made from cocoa, such as cocoa butter or cocoa powder. To make cocoa products, the seeds must be roasted at a high temperature.

- Example: This chocolate bar has the highest percentage of **cocoa** on the market.
- Example: They always had a cup of **cocoa** when winter came.

Coco is a shortened abbreviation for the word “coconut.”

- Example: It smells like **coco**, mango, and pineapple.
- Example: Other palm trees found are the date, bamboo, palmyra, **coco** and dom.

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