

APSU Writing Center

Idea and Ideal

Word	Idea	Ideal
Definition	a noun that means a thought or suggestion as to a possible course of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a noun that means a person or thing regarded as perfect • an adjective that means satisfying one's conception of what is perfect; most suitable

Idea is a concept or a formulated thought of opinion (thought, suggestion, or concept).

- Example: The book club members shared their **ideas** on how to interpret the novel's ending.
- Example: The student had an **idea** of how to reduce paper waste on campus.

Ideal is a model of something perfect or something without an equal (perfect, optimal, or best).

- Example: He's the **ideal** candidate for the job.
- Example: Zoe's **ideal** evening includes a cozy dinner with close friends and a captivating movie.

Illusion and Delusion

Word	Illusion	Delusion
Definition	a noun that is a thing that is or is likely to be wrongly interpreted by the senses.	a noun that is a false belief or judgment about external reality, held despite incontrovertible evidence to the contrary

Illusion refers to either something that is not as it appears or a misperception.

- Example: The relative calm of the jungle gives an **illusion** of safety and peace.
- Example: The intricate set design in the theater produced the **illusion** of an enchanted forest.

Delusion is a dangerous misperception or an idea that misleads a person into dangerous patterns of thought.

- Example: Edward appears to be suffering under the **delusion** that he is still the king.
- Example: Jane's **delusion** convinced her that everyone was conspiring against her, even her closest friends.

- Hint: For a dangerously deceptive idea, choose delusion. Since delusion and dangerous both begin with the letter "d".

APSU Writing Center

References

Alza, M. (n.d.). *Illusion vs. Delusion*. Grammar.com.
https://www.grammar.com/illusion_vs._delusion.

Mananer, S. (2023) *Idea Vs Ideal: What Are The Differences? When To Use Each*. The Content Authority. <https://thecontentauthority.com/blog/idea-vs-ideal>

Phelps, J. (2022, September 25). *Idea vs Ideal – What’s The Difference*. Grammarcheck.me.
<https://www.grammarcheck.me/idea-vs-ideal/>

Writing Explained. (2023). *Illusion vs. Delusion: What’s the Difference?* Writing Explained.
<https://writingexplained.org/illusion-vs-delusion-difference>