

APSU Writing Center

Suit and Suite

Word	Suit	Suite
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a set of outer clothes made of the same fabric and designed to be worn together • to go well with or to enhance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a set of rooms designated for use or for a particular purpose • a set of instrumental compositions, to be played in succession

Suit refers to a set of clothes or one of the four categories in a deck of cards.

- Example: The job would **suit** someone with a business background.
- Example: When playing the card game, you must follow **suit** until you can no longer do so.

Suite refers to a set of rooms, or a set of musical pieces designed to be played together in sequence.

- Example: Kevin wants a **suite** with a kitchen and a living room.
- Example: Bach's orchestral **suites** are prime examples of Baroque sensibilities.

- **Hint:** Suit and suite are both nouns, but only suit can be a verb. If you're using the word as a verb, choose suit.

Shelf and Shelve

Word	Shelf	Shelve
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a horizontal surface upon which things can be placed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to put something on a shelf • to postpone an idea or action

Shelf is a raised, horizontal surface used for storing things.

- Example: A **shelf** along one wall provides extra space for smaller plants.
- Example: Please put the vase on the top **shelf** of the kitchen cabinet.

Shelve means to place or arrange (items, especially books) on a shelf. It also means to decide not to proceed with (a project or plan), either temporarily or permanently.

- Example: I think we are going to **shelve** this idea.
- Example: We had catalogued and **shelved** all the books shipped in that day.

- **Hint:** Since shelve and verb both contain the letter "v", remembering that shelve is a verb should be a relatively simple proposition.

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References

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