

HOMOPHONES: Words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings or spellings.

You're & Your

You're = you are

Your = belonging to a person

E.g. **You're** more annoying than **your** brother.

Where, wear & were (do not sound alike)

Where and wear sound like hair, Were sounds like stir

Where = location

Wear = clothing

Were = past tense

e.g. I want to go where he went.

e.g. We were going to the party.

e.g. I would wear that shirt but it's too small.

Too, two, and to

Too = also/a lot

Two = number 2

To = any other time

E.g. **Two** children went outside **to** the park because it was **too** hot in their apartment.

Know & Now (do not sound alike)

Know sounds like grow, Now sounds like cow

Know = Knowledge

Now = at this moment

e.g. I know that you're annoyed.

e.g. Now, I'm just annoyed.

Knew & New

New = not used before

Knew = to have knowledge

E.g. I knew those pants were new when I saw them.

Than & Then

Then = passage of time (and then...)

Than = comparison (better than...)

E.g. We went to the cinema and **then** the park.

E.g. Taj is taller **than** me.

They're, their, and there

They're = they are

Their = when something belongs to someone/something

There = any other time

E.g. They're going to put their bags over there.

Accept & Except

Except = apart from

Accept = to receive

E.g. I hate all books except that one.

E.g. I want you to accept this book as a gift.

It's & Its

It's = it is

Its = any other time (possession)

E.g. **It's** annoying that the dog lost **its** toy.

Homophones with Examples

Homophones (A)

Ad — Add

- We put an **ad** in the local paper.
- Do you want to **add** your name to the list?

Ail — Ale

- Make a kind of grand tour on my own, take the waters and cure what **ails** me.
- Deglaze pan with nut-brown **ale** and reduce liquid by half.

Air — Heir

- Let's go out for some fresh **air**.
- John was the sole **heir** to a vast estate.

All — Awl

- All horses are animals, but not **all** animals are horses.
- An **awl** is an iron instrument used for piercing leather, but the word has been in punning use since time immemorial.

Allowed — Aloud

- Smoking is not **allowed** here.
- The pain made him cry **aloud**.

Alms — Arms

- Parish priests were feeling the pinch through reduced income from **alms** and tithes.
- He had a pile of books in his **arms**.

Altar — Alter

- The groom left the bride standing at the **altar**.
- I can't **alter** the plans.

Ant — Aunt

- **Ants** work hard all summer.
- My **aunt** lives in Canada.

Arc — Ark

- The beach swept around in an **arc**.
- The **ark** is vast, designed to float, not sail – and there were no launching problems!

Ate — Eight

- I **ate** three hot dogs.
- My parents died when I was **eight**.

Auger — Augur

- These have parallel sides and an **auger** along which the excess wood escapes.
- Conflicts among the various groups do not **augur** well for the future of the peace talks.

Aural — Oral

- The sound track gives us the **aural** before the visual cue; it is as if the thunder arrives before the lightning.
- Like our **oral** culture, our society is atomized, disparate and largely obsessed with trivia.

Homophones (B)

Baize — Bays

- *At the same time, away from the competitive **baize**, she was a loyal and warm-hearted personality.*
- *He just crouches on the corner at lunchtime and occasionally **bays**, like a wolf or coyote.*

Bald — Bawled

- *He combed his hair and tried to hide his **bald** patch.*
- *If you didn't, you were **bawled** out, and that took an awful lot of getting used to.*

Ball — Bawl

- *Tom caught the **ball** with one hand*
- *I couldn't help it, I just started **bawling**.*

Band — Banned

- *They formed a **band** when they were still at school.*
- *Leaders of the **banned** party were arrested last night.*

Bard — Barred

- *I can be a **bard**, a philosopher, an actor.*
- *The gates are **barred**, the grass grows long, the paint peels.*

Bare — Bear

- *The trees are already **bare**.*
- *I am afraid of **bears**.*

Baron — Barren

- *Hariri is not the first political **baron** to have risen without the benefit of family connections.*
- *Thousands of years ago the surface was **barren** desert.*

Be — Bee

- ***Be** quiet!*
- *A **bee** is buzzing around.*

Beach — Beech

- *It's a nice day for going to the **beach**.*
- *Copses of **beech** and alder appeared, straggling along the banks with their roots lost in a tangle of briars and bracken.*

Bean — Been

- *Tom doesn't like green **beans**.*
- *I've never **been** to Japan.*

Beer — Bier

- *He opened the fridge and got out a can of ice-cold **beer**.*
- *She made an effort to compose her mind to do just that, and kept her eyes firmly on the **bier**.*

Berry — Bury

- *If you are determined to cultivate fruits, then the safest bets are **berry** bushes and nut trees.*
- *We hope to **bury** any speculation that there was a conspiracy.*

Berth — Birth

- You see them in dedicated lanes, hopefully being given a wide **berth** by cars.
- What's your date of **birth**?

Billed — Build

- You will be **billed** monthly for the service.
- They're going to **build** on the site of the old power station.

Blue — Blew

- They failed to put clear **blue** water between themselves and their competitors.
- She **blew** onto her coffee to cool it down.

Bored — Board

- After a while, I got **bored** and left.
- The plan of the new building is displayed on a **board** at the back of the room.

Braid — Brayed

- A worn **braid** feels rough and is best cut away and the line joined by a blood knot.
- The fisherman **brayed** laughter, pleased with his joke, and delighted to see the boy had composed himself.

Break — Brake

- I need a **break**.
- She stopped with a squeal of the **brakes**.

Brews — Bruise

- In the days when most types of beer were dark, wheat **brews** were seen as being relatively pale and often cloudy.
- Jenny looked as though she'd been crying, and there was a nasty **bruise** on her cheek.

Bridal — Bridle

- She went to House of Design, a new Boston **bridal** house specializing in couture-quality gowns.
- The boy walked up to it and pulled its head up with the **bridle**, leading it out of the trees.

Broach — Brooch

- He decided not to **broach** the subject of divorce until his wife had recovered from her illness.
- Mrs. or Mme Wyatt wore patent-leather shoes and a smart brownish suit with a gold **brooch**.

Buy — By / Bye

- I want to **buy** a new coat.
- The telephone is **by** the window.
- **Bye**, Dave.

Homophones (C)

Capital — Capitol

- The government is eager to attract foreign **capital**.
- This same senator also once got lost in a **Capitol** Hill garden after leaving a conference committee on the House side.

Cellar — Seller

- We don't use our coal **cellar** anymore.
- She is a flower **seller**.

Census — Sense

- A national **census** is taken every ten years.
- He felt an overwhelming **sense** of loss.

Cereal — Serial

- Eaten with milk or cream, they made an acceptable breakfast **cereal**.
- Their letters of planning went back and forth like installments of a **serial**.

Chili — Chilly

- The sauce needs more **chili**.
- I was feeling **chilly**.

Choral — Coral

- The third and final section of the evening was **choral**.
- They spent \$ 2 million on environmental measures, he said, and hired biologists to replant **coral** that would be damaged.

Cite — Sight / Site

- He was **cited** for bravery.
- Anne's **sight** is very good for someone of her age.
- A **site** has been chosen for the new school.

Coarse — Course

- The **coarse** sand was hot.
- Andy's doing a one-year journalism **course**.

Complement — Compliment

- The dark red walls **complement** the red leather chairs.
- Being compared to Abba is a great **compliment**.

Council — Counsel

- He sent a letter to the **council** to complain about the noise.
- The judge asked **counsel** for the defence to explain.

Homophones (D)

Deer — Dear

- A **deer** makes tracks in the snow.
- Congratulations to you my **dear** brother on all your fine accomplishments in school.

Die — Dye

- Do you believe in anything enough to **die** for it?
- Carbonless paper coated with chemicals and **dye** which will produce copies without carbon paper.

Discreet — Discrete

- He assured her that he would be **discreet**.
- The change happens in a series of **discrete** steps.

Doe — Dough

- Ezra waited for the **doe** to open its eyes and look at him.
- Mix lemon juice and milk; stir into flour mixture until **dough** leaves side of bowl and forms a ball.

Done — Dun

- As soon as I'm **done**, I'll give you a call.
- The claret **dun** nymph is at home in slow, peaty streams.

Draft — Draught

- This is only the first **draft** of my speech.
- A cold **draught** of air blew in from the open window.

Dual — Duel

- The piece of furniture serves a **dual** purpose as a cupboard and as a table.
- The officer challenged him to a **duel**.

Homophones (E)

Earn — Urn

- He did all sorts of jobs to **earn** a living.
- The soup **urn** had a lonely look.

Ewe — You

- He's helping to drive in the **ewes** for a mass ante natal clinic
- I have some news for **you**.

Homophones (F)

Farther — Father

- We decided not to go any **farther**.
- I love my **father**.

Faze — Phase

- John was embarrassed, but it didn't **faze** Mike a bit.
- The first **phase** of renovations should be finished by January.

File — Phial

- Mendoza read over the **file** on the murders.
- The door irised open and he reached inside, drawing out the tiny **phial** before the door closed up again.

Find — Fined

- I can't **find** the car keys.
- The company was **fined** £20 000 for breaching safety regulations.

Fir — Fur

- You always clear away the soft topsoil till you get a **fir** base.
- There was cat **fur** all over the chair.

Flaw — Floor

- There is a fundamental **flaw** in Walton's argument.
- We are located on the seventh **floor** of the building.

Flea — Flee

- A water **flea** that is starving in a crowded pond is the victim not of food shortage but of competition.
- He gathered what money he had just in case Gallagher was forced to **flee**.

Flew — Flu/ Flue

- A bird **flew** by and saw one of the half-eaten calves that I had dug up.
- Steven's still in bed with **flu**.
- You may prefer central heating, and more controllable ventilation than permanently open **flue**.

Flex — Flecks

- She watched him raise one hand to rub the nape of his neck, then **flex** his shoulder muscles.
- Only a few **flecks** of gray could be seen in his full head of hair.

Flour — Flower

- Sift the **flour** and salt into a bowl.
- What beautiful **flowers!**

For — Four

- There's a letter **for** you.p
- I choose number **Four**.

Foreword — Forward

- He was asked if he would consider writing a **foreword** for her book.
- They ran **forward** to welcome her.

Fort — Fought

- Just the three of you going to be holding the **fort** tonight.
- He **fought** many battles with the early Labor party in Lancaster and discrimination against socialist employees was alleged.

Foul — Fowl

- He woke up with a **foul** taste in his mouth.
- Fish, **fowl** and meat, most with a decidedly Southwestern treatment, are represented on the menu.

Homophones (G)

Gait — Gate

- He was round and fat, he had an energetic **gait**, a bright, lively face, and laughing eyes.
- We went through the **gate** into the orchard.

Gamble — Gambol

- Their religion forbids them to drink or **gamble**.
- Now, at seventeen, I could **gambol** in the forbidden delights of Elysium with no one tugging at my hand.

Genes — Jeans

- The actual number of human **genes** is still in dispute.
- Her hair looked dishevelled, as did the sweatshirt and **jeans** she was wearing.

Gored — Gourd

- He was attacked and **gored** by a bull.
- I felt hollow, like a dried **gourd**, a few loose seeds shaking uselessly inside me.

Great — Grate

- The movie was a **great** success.
- She took the two halves of the letter away, tore them in fragments, and burned them in her **grate**.

Groan — Grown

- Richard's jokes make you **groan** rather than laugh.
- He had been a **grown** man with a small but independent income when he had taken Minnie instead of her to wife.

Homophones (H)

Hart — Heart

- Whoever slew a **hart** or hind was to be blinded.
- Regular exercise is good for the **heart**.

Hear — Here

- I could **hear** the sound of traffic.
- This switch **here** controls the lights.

Heel — Heal

- The sergeant clicked his **heels** and walked out.
- This will help to **heal** your cuts and scratches.

Hi — High

- **Hi** guys!
- The house has a **high** wall all the way round it.

Him — Hymn

- He took the children with **him**.
- The service began with a rousing **hymn**.

Hoard — Horde

- They dug up a **hoard** of Roman coins.
- The elves defeated a huge **horde** of goblins.

Hole — Whole

- The bomb blew a huge **hole** in the ground.
- She wasn't telling the **whole** truth.

Holy — Wholly

- The priest puts some **holy** water on the child's head.
- The report claimed that the disaster was **wholly** unavoidable.

Hour — Our

- The interview lasted half an **hour**.
- We showed them some of **our** photos.

Homophones (I)

I — Eye

- *I moved to this city six years ago.*
- *Ow! I've got something in my **eye!***

Idle — Idol

- *I cannot afford to leave the land lying **idle.***
- *She is the **idol** of countless teenagers.*

Incite — Insight

- *Republicans have complained that Democrats are using Social Security scare tactics to **incite** seniors groups and others to oppose the constitutional amendment.*
- *The article gives us a real **insight** into the causes of the present economic crisis.*

Homophones (K)

Knead — Need

- *On a lightly floured board, **knead** the dough for a couple of minutes.*
- *You don't really **need** a car.*

Knew — New

- *I wonder if he **knew** of the plan?*
- *The hardest part of this job is understanding the **new** technology.*

Knight — Night

- *She's still waiting for a **knight** in shining armor to come and rescue her.*
- *The accident happened on Friday **night.***

Knot — Not

- *Tie the two ropes together with a **knot.***
- *She did **not** see him.*

Know — No

- *I **know** people's handwriting changes as they get older. "It was Tony."*
- *"**No**, you're wrong. It was Ted."*

Homophones (L)

Leak — Leek

- *Water had started to **leak** into the cellar.*
- *For a first course, there is a potato **leek** soup.*

Lessen — Lesson

- *They gave her an injection to **lessen** the pain.*
- *Our first **lesson** on Tuesdays is French.*

Levee — Levy

- *The last four of these sub-deltas were formed by **levee** breaches in 1839, 1860, 1874 and 1891.*
- *If the government wishes to raise tax revenue in order to subsidize the poor, it should **levy** a tax on films.*

Links — Lynx

- *A love of nature **links** the two poets.*
- *They may be eagle-eyed or watch like a **lynx**.*

Loan — Lone

- *I had to take out a **loan** to buy my car.*
- *He was by no means a **lone** voice criticizing the government.*

Loot — Lute

- *He refused to let his army enter and **loot** the city.*
- *Here too he started to write hymns which he would sing to his own accompaniment on a **lute**.*

Homophones (M)

Made — Maid

- *The sky was clear and the sunlight had a brilliance and intensity that **made** her head reel.*
- *A **maid** pushed her cleaning cart down the path toward the cottages out back.*

Mail — Male

- *He found a mountain of **mail** waiting for him.*
- *Many women earn less than their **male** colleagues.*

Main — Mane

- *The **main** reason for living in Spain is the weather.*
- *She tossed back her **mane** of chestnut hair.*

Manna — Manner

- *There is no mention in the story of the giving of water, or of food beyond the **manna**.*
- *I had hoped you would behave in a more responsible **manner**.*

Marshal — Martial

- *Heston has been named grand **marshal** of the parade.*
- *He'd heard rumors that the military were planning to declare **martial** law.*

Mask — Masque

- *Her sarcasm is a **mask** for her insecurity.*
- *Comus is a **masque** in which a young lady's chastity is tried and not vanquished.*

Maw — More

- *Millions of dollars were poured into the **maw** of defense spending.*
- *Children generally feel much **more** confident working in groups.*

Medal — Meddle

- She won a gold **medal** at the last Olympics.
- Church leaders shouldn't **meddle** in politics.

Meet — Meat

- Maybe we'll **meet** again some time.
- I gave up eating **meat** a few months ago.

Might — Mite

- I **might** be a few minutes late.
- Some teachers take everything a **mite** too serious.

Mist — Missed

- We could just see the outline of the house through the **mist**.
- He **missed** 20 games after breaking a bone in his wrist.

Moose — Mousse

- The team already knew that **moose** exposed to new predator populations are more vulnerable.
- She would bake a chocolate **mousse** torte.

Muscle — Mussel

- Rooney has pulled a **muscle** in his thigh and won't play tomorrow.
- You can also try beef heart, **mussel**, chicken, liver prawn and the like.

Homophones (N)

None — Nun

- I wish I could offer you some cake but there's **none** left.
- Georgiana later marries, and Eliza becomes a **nun**.

Homophones (O)

Oar — Or

- We took one **oar** each and rowed quickly to the shore.
- It can be black, white **or** grey.

Overdo — Overdue

- Don't **overdo** the salt in the food.
- Her baby is two weeks **overdue**.

Homophones (P)

Pail — Pale

- They filled their **pail** and container, and started the return journey.
- He looked very **pale** and drawn.

Pain — Pane

- She felt a sharp **pain** in her leg.
- Omite peers through the **pane**, shakes her head and steps back.

Pair — Pear

- She felt as if every **pair** of eyes in the room was on her.
- This **pear** smells nice.

Passed — Past

- We **passed** a group of students outside the theatre.
- Study some **past** exam papers to get an idea of the questions.

Peace — Piece

- I wish she would just leave me in **peace**.
- He broke off a **piece** of bread and gave it her.

Peak — Peek

- Sales this month have reached a new **peak**.
- Shut your eyes and don't **peek**!

Pedal — Peddle

- She put her foot down on the accelerator **pedal**.
- Farmers come to Seoul to **peddle** rice.

Plane — Plain

- She slept on the **plane**.
- The advantages were **plain** to see.

Principal — Principle

- His **principal** reason for making the journey was to visit his family.
- The general **principle** is that education should be available to all children up to the age of 16.

Profit — Prophet

- The shop's daily **profit** is usually around \$500.
- He sent for Teiresias, the old blind **prophet**, the most revered of Thebans.

Homophones (R)

Rain — Reign

- There will be heavy **rain** in most parts of the country.
- A higher synthesis, one ushering in a new **reign** of peace and harmony, under a benign and ever just science.

Red — Read

- We painted the door bright **red**.
- I was shocked when I **read** of his death.

Right — Write

- Keep on the **right** side of the road.
- She had to **write** a report on the project.

Ring — Wring

- She left a dirty **ring** around the bath.
- They are always trying to **wring** additional funds from the government.

Rode — Road

- He **rode** away across the marshes.
- I ran down the **road** to see what was happening.

Role — Roll

- They want to limit the **role** of government.
- I tried to **roll** him onto his side.

Rouse — Rows

- We don't want to **rouse** any suspicions.
- There were always **rows** when my dad got home.

Rung — Wrung

- I have **rung** the world from these boxes and feel a great affection and gratitude towards them.
- Sally **wrung** out the socks and hung them on the towel rack.

Homophones (S)

Sail — Sale

- She always wanted to **sail** around the world.
- The use and **sale** of marijuana remains illegal.

Sauce — Source

- Stir in fish **sauce**, coconut milk, sugar, and lime juice and bring to a simmer.
- Beans are a very good **source** of protein.

Scene — Seen

- The police soon arrived at the **scene** of the crime.
- He crouched down so he couldn't be **seen**.

Scull — Skull

- You didn't **scull** too badly today.
- Her **skull** was crammed with too many thoughts.

See — Sea

- She looked for him but couldn't **see** him in the crowd.
- The waste was dumped in the **sea**.

Shoe — Shoo

- What's your **shoe** size?
- You **shoo** the dog out of the kitchen.

Side — Sighed

- They crossed from one **side** of London to the other.
- He **sighed** deeply at the thought.

Slay — Sleigh

- Those old movies still **slay** me!
- Alternatives to skiing include a leisure pool, curling and skating on the nearby lake, indoor tennis and **sleigh** rides.

Soar — Sore

- She watched the dove **soar** above the chestnut trees.
- I had a **sore** throat and aching limbs.

Sole — Soul

- Griffiths is the **sole** survivor of the crash.
He is really quite a sensitive **soul**.

Some — Sum

- I need **some** apples for this recipe.
- Bill wants to spend a large **sum** on modernizing the farm.

Sort — Sought

- He wondered if Rosa was in some **sort** of trouble.
- He **sought** revenge against Surkov for separating him from his wife and son.

Staid — Stayed

- The museum is trying to get rid of its **staid** image.
- She **stayed** at home while the children were young.

Stalk — Stork

- He ate the apple, **stalk** and all.
- We always used to say the guys on the Ridge were lucky, the **stork** brought their babies.

Stare — Stair

- It's not polite to **stare**, you know.
- The second **stair** creaks when you step on it.

Stationary — Stationery

- It is called a sinker because it sinks beneath you when you are **stationary**.
- You could say the same for luggage and **stationery**.

Steal — Steel

- Inventors know that someone is always going to try to **steal** their designs.
- Sheffield is a major **steel** town.

Stile — Style

- Continue on a clear path up the hillside to reach a **stile** on the ridge.
- The paintings are in an expressionistic **style**.

Sun — Son

- The **sun** was shining and birds were singing.
- We have two daughters and a **son**.

Homophones (T)

Tail — Tale

- The male has beautiful **tail** feathers.
- His latest book is a delightful children's **tale** about talking animals.

Team — Teem

- We have a **team** of eight working on product development.
- With luck, in a year the place should begin to **teem** with federal workers.

Than — Then

- Natalie was prettier **than** her sister.
- I wish I had known **then** what I know now.

Their — There

- They washed **their** faces and went to bed.
- We could go back to my cottage and have lunch **there**.

Throne — Thrown

- Queen Elizabeth came to the **throne** in 1952.
- The boat was **thrown** onto the rocks.

Tide — Tied

- The body was washed up on the beach by the **tide**.
- She **tied** the newspapers in a bundle.

To — Too / Two

- I walked **to** the office.
- The dress was **too** tight for me.
- I was in **two** minds about the book.

Toe — Tow

- He kicked the earth with the **toe** of his boot.
- The car broke down and we had to get somebody to give us a **tow**.

Homophones (V)

Vain — Vein

- She closed her eyes tightly in a **vain** attempt to hold back the tears.
- The nurse was having trouble finding a **vein** in his arm.

Vary — Very

- Class numbers **vary** between 25 and 30.
- The new building has been **very** much admired.

Homophones (W)

Wail — Whale

- Somewhere behind them a child began to **wail**.
- We saw a **whale** blowing a jet of spray high in the air.

Waste — Waist

- Why **waste** money on clothes you don't need?
- He put his arm around her **waist**.

Way — Weigh

- I'm not happy with this **way** of working.
- The young birds **weigh** only a few grams.

Weak — Week

- She is still **weak** after her illness.
- He comes to see us once a **week**.

Weather — Whether

- The **weather** is very changeable at the moment.
- I asked him **whether** he had done it all himself or whether someone had helped him.

Where — Wear

- I wonder **where** they will take us to.
- I always **wear** black.

Which — Witch

- **Which** of the applicants has got the job?
- He wants me to be a **witch**.

Who's — Whose

- **Who's** the money for?
- **Whose** house is that?

Won — One

- Britain **won** five gold medals.
- There's only room for **one** person.

Would — Wood

- He said he **would** be here at eight o'clock.
- All the furniture was made of **wood**.

Homophones (Y)

You're — Your

- **You're** a good person.
- Dentists advise you to have **your** teeth checked every six months.

