



## Confusing Words – Homonyms, Homographs, Heterographs, and Heteronyms

### Homonyms

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings.

Word	Example Sentences
accept except	My insurance will <u>accept</u> the charges for the accident. I like all vegetables, <u>except</u> for asparagus.
affect effect	Changing the way you eat will <u>affect</u> your health. I can't see what <u>effect</u> these new laws will have on me.
board bored	We put a <u>board</u> on the roof to fix the leak. I am so <u>bored</u> because there's nothing to do!
brake break	Always keep your foot above the <u>brake</u> ! My dad is worried my mom will <u>break</u> our new television.
close clothes	When you leave the room, always <u>close</u> the door. I want to go shopping to buy new <u>clothes</u> .
ensure insure	John wants to <u>ensure</u> he will graduate next semester. Mary will <u>insure</u> her new car.
fare fair	I didn't have money for the bus <u>fare</u> this morning. It was only <u>fair</u> that the bus driver kicked me off the bus.
forth fourth	I'm not sure I can go <u>forth</u> with the plan. Allen was so proud to come in <u>fourth</u> in the pie-eating contest!
grate great	We need to <u>grate</u> some cheese to put on the pizza. If it has enough cheese, it will be a <u>great</u> pizza!
hear here	The volume was turned down so low I couldn't <u>hear</u> it. Could you please bring the beef jerky over <u>here</u> ?
hole whole	If I eat one more doughnut <u>hole</u> , I will be stuffed. I looked through the <u>whole</u> house, but I couldn't find my umbrella.
know no	I really have to <u>know</u> a lot to do well on my history test. I am going to study until I have <u>no</u> time left.
led lead	The dog <u>led</u> the police to the drug stash. Pens are okay, but I prefer old-fashioned <u>lead</u> pencils.
lessen lesson	The doctor gave me some stretches to do to <u>lessen</u> the pain. I'm not sure if he's learned his <u>lesson</u> yet.
lose loose	I'm trying hard to not lose patience with her. The knot might not hold, since it's sort of loose.

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male mail	The kennel had both <u>male</u> and female puppies for sale. I'm going to the post office to send my <u>mail</u> .
passed past	I kept getting <u>passed</u> on the interstate today. In the <u>past</u> , I drove a lot faster.
peace piece	We all wish for world <u>peace</u> . A <u>piece</u> of pie would be great right now.
principal principle	My high school <u>principal</u> gave pretty good advice. I don't want to compromise my <u>principles</u> .
than then	I am tanner <u>than</u> she. We were both on the beach, but <u>then</u> she went inside.
there their they're	You can put your shoes over <u>there</u> . <u>Their</u> shoes were dirty, so they left them outside. <u>They're</u> just walking around barefoot right now.
to too two	I am going <u>to</u> the mall. Jesse said she wants to go <u>too</u> . We are each looking for <u>two</u> new outfits.
weather whether	The <u>weather</u> tomorrow is supposed to be beautiful. I don't know <u>whether</u> to go for a hike or a swim.
whose who's	<u>Whose</u> scarf is this? <u>Who's</u> going to the movie with us?
your you're	<u>Your</u> dog is bigger than my dog. <u>You're</u> going to have to keep him on a leash.

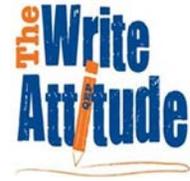
## Homographs

Homographs are words with different pronunciation, meanings and origins but the same spelling.

- agape – with mouth open OR love
- bass – type of fish OR low, deep voice
- bat - piece of sports equipment OR an animal
- bow – type of knot OR to incline
- down – a lower place OR soft fluff on a bird
- entrance – the way in OR to delight
- evening – smoothing out OR after sunset
- fine – of good quality OR a levy
- learned – past tense of learn OR knowledgeable
- minute – tiny OR unit of time
- moped – was gloomy OR motorbike

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- number – more numb OR numerical value
- row – line OR argument OR propel a boat
- sewer – drain OR person who sews
- wave – move the hand in greeting OR sea water coming into shore
- wound – past tense of wind OR to injure

### **Heterographs**

Heterographs are words that have different spellings but sound the same.

Some common examples are: Paws, pause, son, sun, need, knead, blew, blue, hair, hare, flower, flour, week, weak, bear, bare, dear, deer, rode, road, bee, be, might, mite, write, right, ate and eight.

### **Heteronyms**

Heteronyms are words that are spelled identically but have different meanings when pronounced differently. For example:

Lead, pronounced *LEED*, means to guide. However, lead, pronounced *LED*, means a metallic element.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<i>Homonym</i>	Different	Same	Same
<i>Homograph</i>	Different	Same	Same or different
<i>Homophone</i>	Different	Same or different	Same
<i>Heteronym</i>	Different	Same	Different
<i>Heterograph</i>	Different	Different	Same

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