

List of Homonyms, Homophones & Homographs

Part of the difficulty that many with spelling problems have is that the student often tries to sound out the word or tries to spell it phonetically. It is important to teach that the correct spelling or mental “picture of the word” is associated **with the meaning**. Using homonyms within the spelling exercises can be helpful for reinforcing that the student **should not** try to spell a word by sounding it out, but rather by accessing the mental picture in his or her mind. **Meaning ⇔ Spelling**

Homonyms (also called homophones) are words that sound like one another but have different meanings. Some homonyms are spelled the same, like bark (the sound a dog makes) and bark (the outer layer of a tree trunk). Some common (and not so common) homonyms are listed below (~263 pairs or trios): As a parent, coach or self-coached adult student, I encourage you to blend in **a few** appropriate grade-level homonyms with the spelling words for each week. Make sure the meaning of each word is discussed and used properly in a sentence.

accept/except	cymbal/symbol	hew/hue	or/oar/ore	rye/wry	thyme/time
ad/add	days/daze	hi/high	overdo/overdue	sacks/sax	tide/tied
aid/aide	dear/deer/	higher/hire	paced/paste	sail/sale	tighten/titan
air/heir	Deere (brand)	him/hymn	pail/pale	sawed/sod	to/too/two
ail/ale	desert/dessert	hair/hare	pain/pane	scene/seen	toad/toed/towed
aisle/l'Il/isle	dew/do/due	hoarse/horse	pair/pare/pear	sea/see	toe/tow
allowed/aloud	die/dye	hole/whole	pain/pane	seam/seem	told/tolled
altar/alter	disc/disk	hour/our	passed/past	seas/sees/seize	tracked/tract
ant/aunt	discreet/discrete	idle/idol	patience/patients	serf/surf	trussed/trust
ate/eight	discussed/disgust	idle/idol/idyl	pause/paws	serge/surge	use/ewes
bail/bale	doe/dough	in/inn	peace/piece	sew/so/sow	vein/vane
ball/bawl	doughs/doze	incite/insight	peak/peek/pique	shear/sheer	verses/versus
band/banned	earn/urn	its/it's	peal/peel	shoe/shoo	vial/vile
bear/bare	elicit/illicit	jam/jamb	pedal/peddle	side/sighed	vice/vise
be/bee	eminent/imminent	jeans/genes	peer/pier	sighs/size	wade/weighed
beat/beet	ewe/you	knead/need/knead	pi/pie	sign/sine	wail/whale
billed/build	eye/l	knight/night	plain/plane	sight/site/cite	waist/waste
blew/blue	fare/fair/faire	knows/nose/no's	plum/plumb	slay/sleigh	wait/weight
board/bored	feat/feet	lead/led	poor/pour	soar/sore	waive/wave
boy/buoy	find/fined	leased/least	praise/prays/preys	soared/sword	Wales/whales
brake/break	fir/fur	lessen/lesson	presence/presents	sole/soul	war/wore
bread/bred	flea/flee	lie/lye	principal/principle	son/sun	ware/wear/where
by/bye/buy	flew/flu/flue	links/lynx	prince/prints	some/sum	warn/worn
beach/beech	flower/flour	load/lode/lowed	profit/prophet	spade/spayed	wax/whacks
bolder/boulder	for/four/fore	loan/lone	quarts/quartz	staid/stayed	way/weigh/why
bread/bred	foreword/forward	locks/lox	quince/quints	stair/stare	we/wee
browse/brows	forth/fourth	loot/lute	rain/reign/rein	stake/steak	weather/whether
capital/capitol	foul/fowl	maid/made	raise/rays/raze	stationary/stationery	we'd/weed
caret/carrot/carat/karat	frees/freeze	mail/male	rap/wrap	steal/steel	weld/welled
ceiling/sealing	gneiss/nice	maize/maze	read/reed	straight/strait	we'll/wheel
cell/sell	gnu/knew/new	meet/meat/mete	read/red	suede/swayed	wen/when
cent/scent/sent	gored/gourd	medal/meddle	real/reel	summary/summery	we've/weave
census/senses	gorilla/guerrilla	mince/mints	reek/wreak	sundae/Sunday	weak/week
cereal/serial	grays/graze	miner/minor	rest/wrest	tacks/tax	which/witch
chews/choose	grate/great	missed/mist	review/revue	tail/tale	whirled/world
choral/coral	groan/grown	mooed/mood	right/rite/write	taut/taught	whirred/word
chute/shoot	guessed/guest	morning/mourning	ring/wring	tea/tee	whine/wine
clothes/close	gym/Jim	muscle/mussel	road/rode/rowed	team/teem	whoa/woe
colonel/kernel	hale/hail	mussed/must	roe/row	teas/tease/tees	who's/whose
coarse/course	hall/haul	nays/neighs	role/roll	tents/tense	wood/would
complement/compliment	hare/hair	no/know	root/route	tern/turn	worst/wurst
council/counsel	heal/heel/he'll	none/hun	rose/rows	there/their/they're	yoke/yolk
creak/creek	heard/herd	nose/knows/no's	rote/wrote	threw/through	you'll/yule
crews/cruise	here/hear	not/knot/naught	roux/rue	throne/thrown	your/you're/yore
		one/won			