

# Homonyms: Homophones and Homographs



**Homophones** are words that sound the same but have different meanings or different spellings. For example, night and knight.

The word 'homophone' comes from Greek – 'homo' means 'same' and 'phone' means 'sound' or 'voice'.

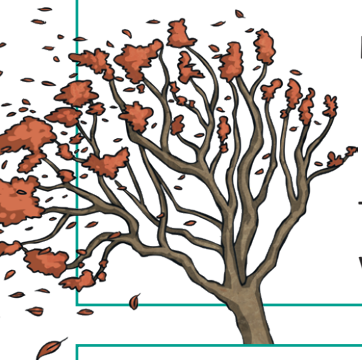
**Homographs** are words that share the same spelling but have different meanings. They do not necessarily sound the same (so may be pronounced differently).

For example, wind and wind.

The wind howled outside as the storm raged.

I began to wind the string around the parcel.

The suffix 'graph' means written, so homographs are words that are written the same way.



The word 'homonym' comes from the Greek 'homonymos', which means 'having the same name'. A **homonym** is a word with the same spelling or pronunciation as another, but with a different meaning or origin. A homonym may be a homograph or homophone.

## Choose (not chews!) a Homophone

Read each sentence. Choose the best homophone to fill in the blanks.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ (weight/wait) for the winner to be announced was almost \_\_\_\_\_ (to/too/two) much \_\_\_\_\_ (for/four) Frank to \_\_\_\_\_ (bare/bear).
2. When I visit a \_\_\_\_\_ (knew/new) city, I head out \_\_\_\_\_ (right/write) away to \_\_\_\_\_ (sea/see) the \_\_\_\_\_ (sites/sights).
3. I am never \_\_\_\_\_ (board/bored) at granny's house; I always have a \_\_\_\_\_ (great/grate) time.
4. Sam \_\_\_\_\_ (one/won) a \_\_\_\_\_ (prize/prise) at the fair when he \_\_\_\_\_ (guest/guessed) how many sweets \_\_\_\_\_ (were/where) in the jar.





## Homograph Hunt

In each sentence, look carefully for a word that could be a homograph (same spelling, different meaning) and underline it. On the line beneath, write the correct definition of the word in the context of that sentence.

For example:

The trains are actually early today.

trains – a type of transport that runs on a railway



1. Dad trains every week for rugby.

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2. The little calf stood in the barn.

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3. There is a minute chance that it might snow today.

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4. Each person had to bow as they approached the king.

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5. It is important that rules are fair.

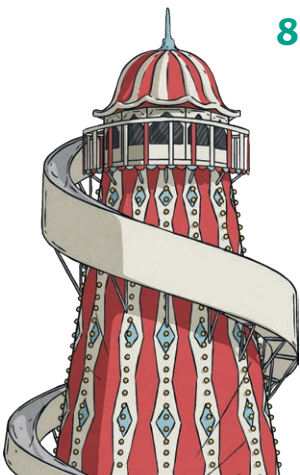
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6. A calf injury meant that he couldn't compete.

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7. In one minute, it will be two o'clock.

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8. I hope to visit the fair when it comes to town.

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9. I like to wear a yellow bow in my hair.

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10. I always skip around the playground.

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Homophone Word Search

Look at the list of words. Can you find homophones of those words in the wordsearch?

s w r t y k w n e e j h o b u  
 t e i m r r d k r r a f t d i  
 s a k o w h i c h y m b s w c  
 q t i m z b w s o q h e p z f  
 d h a h e g m d l d t f d w d  
 k e d t z a s s e n t y t a k  
 c r v a i l t o p e i g h t l  
 v n n h b o t y i v r z g d t  
 g b c p r u n x d v y x s v r  
 x q s r o d u e h r e z v n d  
 a e h o d x p r r d i b l g j  
 x h d p b n n e d y y y b p p  
 a q c h g l e i a k u g l p n  
 s t c e v t c g v j g c r n i  
 e s c t n w a n c y n u v n z



allowed  
 ascent  
 ate  
 dear

meddle  
 meet  
 profit  
 rain

stationary  
 whether  
 whole  
 witch



# Homonyms: Homophones and Homographs Answers



Choose (not chews!) a Homophone

1. The **wait** for the winner to be announced was almost **too** much **for** Frank to **bear**.
2. When I visit a **new** city, I head out **right** away to **see** the **sights**.
3. I am never **bored** at granny's house; I always have a **great** time.
4. Sam **won** a **prize** at the fair when he **guessed** how many sweets **were** in the jar.
5. I **heard** a loud **groan** from behind the **blue** wall and looked to discover that Rob had fallen.
6. On Fridays, our school **principal** climbs the **stairs** to tell us **which** class has **won** 'Class of the **Week**'.

Lost and Confused

That **morning**, Jane had been sitting in the church for over an **hour**. **For** once, she was enjoying having some **peace** and quiet. As the **sun's weak rays passed through** the stained-glass window **panes**, beautiful colours were cast all around her. It cheered Jane's heart **to see** the bright bouquet of **flowers** upon the **altar**. As she sat reflecting on things, she **heard** footsteps behind her. An elderly man shuffled down the **aisle** and **passed by** her. From his slumped shoulders and plodding **feet**, she **guessed** that (like her) he had come **here** because he had a heavy **weight** on his **mind**.

Homograph Hunt

1. Dad trains every week for rugby.  
**Definition such as: learns skills/participates in sport session**
2. The little calf stood in the barn.  
**Definition such as: a young animal**
3. There is a minute chance that it might snow today.  
**Definition such as: very tiny, remote**
4. Each person had to bow as they approached the king.  
**Definition such as: bend the head or body to show respect**
5. It is important that rules are fair.  
**Definition such as: just, equal**



6. A calf injury meant that he couldn't compete.

**Definition such as: part of the leg**

7. In one minute, it will be two o'clock.

**Definition such as: unit of time, sixty seconds**

8. I hope to visit the fair when it comes to town.

**Definition such as: a place with rides and entertainment**

9. I like to wear a yellow bow in my hair.

**Definition such as: a knot tied with two loops and two loose ends**

10. I always skip around the playground.

**Definition such as: a light, bouncing step**

Homophone Word Search

s	w	r	t	y	k	w	n	e	e	j	h	o	b	u
t	e	i	m	r	r	d	k	r	r	a	f	t	d	i
s	a	k	o	w	h	i	c	h	y	m	b	s	w	c
q	s	i	m	z	b	w	s	o	q	h	e	p	z	f
d	h	a	h	e	g	m	d	l	d	t	f	d	w	d
k	e	d	t	z	a	s	s	e	n	t	y	t	a	k
c	r	v	a	i	t	o	p	e	i	g	h	t	l	
v	n	n	h	b	o	t	y	i	v	r	z	g	d	t
g	b	c	p	r	u	n	x	d	v	y	x	s	v	r
x	q	s	r	o	d	u	e	h	r	e	z	v	n	d
a	e	h	o	d	x	p	r	r	d	i	b	l	g	j
x	h	d	p	b	n	n	e	d	y	y	b	p	p	
a	q	c	h	g	l	e	t	a	k	u	g	l	p	n
s	t	c	e	v	t	c	g	v	j	g	c	r	n	i
e	s	c	t	n	w	a	n	c	y	n	u	v	n	z

- aloud
- assent
- eight
- deer
- medal
- meat
- prophet
- reign
- stationery
- weather
- hole
- which