



HOMOPHONES, HOMONYMS AND HOMOGRAPHS

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WHAT IS A HOMOPHONE?

- Two or more words having similar sound in terms of how they are pronounced but different meanings, origins, or spelling.
- Homophones can cause confusion and people often use the wrong one in error.
- Examples:
 - Deer and Dear
 - Billed and Build
 - Sew and So and Sow
 - Night and Knight
 - Daze and Days



EXAMPLE OF HOMOPHONES GONE WRONG



- For example...

I went **too** the shop, forgetting my sister wanted **two** come **to**. It would be **too** of us shopping instead of one.

- Should be:

I went **to** the shop, forgetting my sister wanted **to** come **too**. It would be **two** of us shopping instead of one.

- A lot of people get confused.
- It just needs a wee bit of thought and practice.



TO / TWO / TOO

To is a preposition with meaning of destination or position or direction.

- Example: To stay or to go? To be alone or to be with someone?

Two is the number 2

- Example: Just the two of us. A double is two of them.

Too means extra or excess, also in addition. Think of too many O's

- Example: Too many is excessive. Too has too many O's for the other options.



THERE / THEIR / THEY'RE

There is a location or place.

- Example: "Move over there, right now!"

Their is the third person plural possessive pronoun.

- Example: "It's their pencil, not mine or yours."

They're is a contraction meaning ... 'they are'

- Example: "They're responsible, not me!"



WHERE, WERE, WEAR

Where is a location, place or situation.

- Example: “Tell Michelle where I live?”

Were is the plural past verb form. It is the past form of the word ‘are’, referring to something that has happened.

- Example: “My friends were out of town.”

Wear is a verb referring to clothing or to carry, protection, or adornment. It is a noun when you use it plural or in past tense.

- Example: “No-one should wear that top!”



HEAR AND HERE

Hear – to
listen

- Example: I can hear the sound of the birds.

Here – the
place, existing
in the instant

- Example: We are here, in the here and now.



NO AND KNOW

No

- The opposite of Yes
- Example: "No, it isn't!"

Know

- To understand, be knowledgeable, ye ken?
- Example: "I know how to get there."



NEW AND KNEW

New

- Opposite to old, something fresh.
- Example: I have just started a new job today.

Knew

- Past tense of 'know'. Meaning prior knowledge.
- Example: "I knew how to get there a few years ago but streets have all changed."



ALLOUD AND ALLOWED

Aloud

- Noisy, speaking out loud
- Example: "Can you say that aloud?"

Allowed

- Permission to act or do something
- Example: You are allowed to enjoy reading



RIGHT AND WRITE

Right

- Opposite to left, as in direction or correctness in action.
- Example: You are right to turn right at the junction.

Write

- To mark letters, words or other symbols on a surface, typically paper with pen or pencil.
- Example: You need to write letters to people at certain times in life.



IMPORTANT ONE: YOUR AND YOU'RE

Your

- Possession, something belonging to a person or persons (singular and plural).
- Example: Your hat is on the table along with your coat.

You're

- Short form of 'you are', a contraction of the two words with an apostrophe declaring missing letters.
- Example: You're looking fine and dandy today. If you're feeling energetic, please finish your work.



WHAT ABOUT HOMOGRAPHS AND HOMONYMS?

Homographs

Homographs are words that have the same spelling, but different meanings and possibly different pronunciations.

- Homograph example:
- *Does* and *Does*
- Does as in “He does like to run.”
- Does as in a female deer.

Same spelling, **different pronunciation.**

Homonyms

Homonyms are words pronounced the same and have the same spelling, but have different meanings.

- Homonym example:
- Left and Left
- Left as in “You left your coat behind!”
- Left as in “Turn left at the junction.”

Same spelling, **same pronunciation.**

