

HOMOPHONES LIST

words	meaning	example
accept (uh-kuh-sept) except	To take. Other than.	He asked me to marry him, and I accepted. I love all their clothes except the skinny jeans.
aisle (i-yull) i'll isle	A passageway. A contraction of 'I will'. An island.	Gnocchi is down aisle 12. I'll be there for you. I can't wait for the Isle of White festival.
ale (ay-yull) ail	A beer type drink. To have poor health.	That bar sells great ales. My uncle is starting to ail, he's been sick for a while.
aloud (uh-lowd) allowed	To speak loudly. The past tense of allow.	I read the article aloud to the rest of the group. I'm not allowed out after 10:30 pm.
altar (al-ter) alter	A table in a church. To change.	Jasmine was jilted at the altar. I might alter my hair do; I fancy a change for spring.
ant (an-tuh) aunt	A small insect. Your mum's or dad's sister.	My aunt has got ants in her kitchen.
ate (ay-tuh) eight	The past tense of eat. A number.	I ate eight pieces of chocolate.
bale (bay-yull) bail	A bundle. Release a prisoner before trial.	Hay bales are really cheap this year. The bail conditions for the murderer have been set.
ball (baw) bawl	A round object used in sports. A loud shout or yell.	The kids are bawling their eyes out because they've lost their football.
band (ban-d) banned	A group, a ring. Prohibited.	Have you heard of the band called Oasis? I can't believe you are banned from Revolution.
bare (b-air) bear	To be naked. An animal.	I slapped him across the face with my bare hand. I saw a grizzly bear catch a salmon.
bases (bay-siz) basis (bay-sis)	A starting point. A principle.	Our bases are in the woods, yours are by the railway. I only told you on the basis you'd keep it a secret.
be (bee) bee	To be/a conjunction. An insect that makes honey.	Be careful! Bees live in hives.
blew (bl-oo) blue	The past of blow. A colour.	He huffed and he puffed and blew the house down. Your eyes are blue, like the ocean.
board (bor-d) bored	A flat object. To be fed up.	I'm buying a new surfboard as soon as I get paid. I'm so bored of you always talking about yourself.
boy (b-oi) buoy	A young man. A floating device.	The two boys raced out to the buoys.

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brake (bray-kuh) break	To stop. To destroy.	Perch your foot on the brake, these roads are narrow. Please don't break my new tennis racket.
buy (bi-yuh) by bye	Purchase. Past/near. Goodbye.	Who will buy my beautiful roses? Down by the bay, where the watermelons grow. Goodbye my friend, I know you're gone.
ceiling (see-ling) sealing	The top of a room. To cover/fasten/fix.	Can you recommend someone to paint the ceiling? The sealing around the bath is broken.
cell (sell) sell	A small unit/organism. To trade for money.	I'm selling my cell phone.
cellar (sell-uh) seller	The room underneath a house. A person who sells items.	I'm going to install a wine cellar. This seller has got bad reviews.
cent (sent) scent sent	A coin. A smell/odour. Past tense of send.	50 cent is my favourite rapper. This washing powder has a nice scent. I sent the parcel 17 days ago.
cereal (sear-e-al) serial	A breakfast food. Continuing.	I eat cereal for breakfast. Wendy's house won best serial drama.
chews (ch-oo-zuh) choose	Crush with teeth. Select.	The dog chews all my clothes. I choose the blue shoes.
chilli (ch-ill-eeey) chilly	A spicy vegetable. Cold.	Don't rub your eyes after chopping chilli! It is a bit chilly out today.
cite (sy-tuh) sight site	To mention. Vision. A place.	I always cite my work. My eyesight is much better after the operation. The kitchen looks like a building site.
coarse (cor-suh) course	Rough, uneven. A route, a dish, training.	One of my Yorkshire terriers has a coarse coat. The golf course is flooded.
days (day-z) daze	Plural of day. To be confused/stunned.	Summer days are drifting away. The boxer is in a daze after the powerful punch.
dear (d-ee-yer) deer	Expensive/loved/cherished. An animal (Bambi).	My dear old nan died aged 93. I want to buy some deer meat but it's too dear.
desert (v) (diz-ert) dessert	To abandon. Course that concludes a meal.	My friends have deserted me. Can I have the recipe for the delicious dessert?
die (d-i-yuh) dye	Death. Change colour.	Live and let die. Let's pretend to be hippies and tie-dye our shirts.
doe (d-oh) dough	A female deer, rabbit, or rat. Masa for baking.	Doe a deer a female deer, ray a drop of golden sun. Let the dough rise for 30 minutes before kneading it.
dual (j-you`ll) duel	Double. A battle/fight.	The new dual action toothbrush is now available. I challenge you to a duel in chess.

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earn (er-nuh) urn	To gain. A pot used for storing dead people`s ashes.	If I`d worked on Saturday, I would`ve earnt 90 quid. I`ll order the best urn in the catalogue; I earnt a lot this month.
elicit (ill-iss-it) illicit	Draw out. Illegal.	The teacher tried to elicit the answer from the class. They found a stash of illicit drugs in his flat.
eye (i-yuh) I	A bodily organ for sight. Oneself.	I`ve booked my eye test for Thursday. I am the best.
fair (f-air) fare	A big public party/to be ok. Pleasant/the fee/price.	My Fair Lady. The fare for the fair has increased due to inflation.
feat (f-eet) feet	A great achievement. Body parts below your legs.	The contest is a feat of strength. I`ve got two left feet when it comes to dancing.
find (fiy-nd) fined	To discover. Past tense of fine.	If I find the coin, I`ll keep it. In England you can get fined for smoking inside.
flea (flee) flee	Small parasite. To escape.	I found a flea on my dog. Refugees flee war.
flew (fl-ooow) flu	The past of fly. A virus.	I caught a dragonfly, but it flew away. I flew home a day early as I caught the flu.
flour (fla-wuh) flower	White powder used in baking. A colourful plant.	Finally, add the flour and beat until smooth. I need a flower to brighten up my workspace.
for (4) fore four	As a preposition. In front/before. A number.	I went to the bakery for lunch. I`m in love with that sports car on the forecourt. Four fish are flinching.
forth (for-th) fourth	Onwards. 4 th (cardinal number).	From that day forth, they were best friends. May the 4 th be with you.
foul (fah-wul) fowl	Disgusting. A game bird.	Take the bins out will you, they smell foul! I`m going to Gregory`s this weekend to hunt fowl.
grate (gray-tuh) great	Go against the flow. Wonderful, fantastic.	Can you grate a bit of cheese for the ravioli please? Goodness gracious great balls of fire!
grease (gree-suh) Greece	An oily substance. A country.	My new cleanser gets rid of grease and oil. I`d love to visit Greece one day.
groan (grow-nuh) grown	To moan, grunt. The participle of grow.	Don`t groan, you`re eating those vegetables. My kids have all grown up, time has flown by.
hare (huh-air) hair	A big rabbit. Strands that grow on skin.	The dogs are chasing a hare. I want to be a hairdresser when I`m older.
heal (hee-yul) heel	To get better. The back part of your foot.	I sliced my finger, hopefully it`ll heal in a few days. The heel on my favourite pair of shoes has broken.
hear (huh-eer) here	To listen. This place.	I can hear a horn beeping and motors running. I`ll be right here waiting for you.

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higher (hi-yer) hire	Taller. To rent.	Mount Everest is higher than the Andes. I'm going to hire a stripper for Max's stag do.
him (him) hymn	Referring to a man. A religious song.	Did you ask him yet? I've chosen three beautiful hymns for the funeral.
hoarse (hor-s) horse	A rough voice. An animal.	I was singing too much at the match, now I'm hoarse. It's a two-horse race to the finish.
hole (huh-ole) whole	An open part in a surface. Entire.	Somebody burnt a hole in my trousers. He's got the whole world in his hands.
hour (ah-wer) our	A time. Belonging to the speaker and others.	I'll be with you in an hour or so. Our house, in the middle of our street.
knead (need) need	To work dough with your hands. To require something.	Knead the dough for about 10 minutes. All you need is love.
knew (nya-ooow) new	The past tense of `know`. Up to date, 1st time.	I knew you were waiting for me. I want to be a part of it New York, New York.
knight (niy-tuh) night	A warrior dressed in armour. The dark period after the day.	King Arthur had lots of knights. Tonight's the night.
knot (not) not	To tie. No/never.	Tie a knot in your shoelaces before you trip over. That's not a good idea.
know (noo-whu) no	To understand. Refuse.	How will I know if he really loves me? No talking in the library.
knows (noo-zuh) nose	Third person of `know`. The organ you breathe through.	She knows more than she's letting on. Everyone knows that her nose is fake.
lead (led) led	A poisonous metal. The past simple of `lead`.	Lead based paints are now banned. The king led the troops into battle.
made (may-duh) maid	The past simple of `make`. A young woman servant.	I'm not made of money. Maid Marion and her merry men.
mail (may-yull) male	To send. Masculine.	I'll mail you the figures shortly. This toilet is for males only.
main (may-nuh) mane	Principal. The hair of a horse or lion.	Go through the main door and turn left. The mane of a lion grows as it gets older.
meat (mee-tuh) meet	A dead animal for eating. To encounter.	What meat shall we buy for the barbeque? I hope we don't meet any weirdos.
miner (my-ner) minor	A worker in a mine. Someone underage/less.	My dad was a miner all his life. Don't buy booze for minors, it's illegal!
missed (miss-tuh) mist	The past simple of `miss`. A light fog.	I missed my plane because of the traffic jam. There's mist around so be careful.

words	meaning	example
morning (mor-nin) mourning	The period before noon. To be sad following a death.	I'll see you in the morning bright and early. He's mourning his dead wife.
muscles (mus-ul-zuh) mussels	A bundle of fibrous tissue. A shelled mollusc we eat.	With his bulging muscles, he could run to Brussels. Let's go to the beach and collect mussels for tea.
none (nuh-n) nun	Zero, nothing. A religious community.	I wanted a biscuit, but there were none left. My sister is going to become a nun.
oar (or) ore or	A paddle for a small boat. Raw material. Either.	Pass me an oar, I'll help row. That island is full of ores and minerals. Black or white?
one (wun) won	The number. The past of `win`.	There is one hour left to cast your vote. I fought the law and the law won.
pair (puh-air) pear	Two of something. A fruit.	Can you bring me the blue pair of scissors? I'll make a pear tart for Sunday.
pane (pay-nuh) pain	A flat sheet of material. When a part of your body hurts.	The windowpane is cracked, it needs replacing. Ironing is a pain in the ass.
passed (pass-tuh) past	The past of `pass`. A previous time/a preposition.	He passed the ball to Turner. He's got a dark past.
patience (pay-shunts) patients	To have endurance. A person in medical care.	All we need is just a little patience. The ward is full, there are 45 patients inside.
pause (paw-zuh) paws	A short break. Animal feet.	Let's pause here for a sec... His paws are huge, he's going to be a big dog.
peace (pee-suh) piece	Harmony/quiet. A bit/portion.	I'd love some peace and quiet. Take another little piece of my heart now.
peak (pee-kuh) peek	The top of something. To take a look.	I peaked at 14:00, now I'm flagging. I'll let you have a sneak peek at my wedding dress.
plain (play-nuh) plane	Simple. An aircraft.	My stomach hurts, I'll have something plain for tea. Their plane is going to land soon.
poor (puh-or) pore pour	No money or possessions. Holes on your skin's surface. To make a liquid flow.	I give all my old clothes to the poor. I can't wait to use my new pore cleansing face wash. I know how to pour a pint, I used to work in a pub.
prince (prin-ts) prints	A man of royalty. To print/copies.	One day my prince will come. These footprints suggest the cat is large.
principal (prin-see-pal) principle	Main/head of a school. Belief/rule.	Principal Skinner will see you now. It's against my principles to steal.

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rain (ray-nuh) reign rein	Water coming from the sky. To rule. Straps used to restrain.	The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain. I want to reign a country for centuries. Bring the reins for the toddler, he always runs away.
raise (ray-zuh) rays	To lift. Beams of light.	You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains. Take your shades, the rays are strong today.
read (red) red	The past of `read`. A colour.	You read my mind. I wanted the red shoes, but they didn't have my size.
right (riy-tuh) write	Correct. To put pen to paper.	You were right, we should've taken exit 37. I've already written the shopping list.
road (row-duh) rode rowed	A street where the cars drive. The past simple of `ride`. The past simple of `row`.	Don't park your car on that road at night. I rode to work again today. Team GB rowed their way to victory.
role (row-luh) roll	Part. Move forward/a piece of bread.	I play the role of Judge George Berkshire. I've made you an egg-mayo roll.
root (roo-tuh) route	Part of a plant that grows underground. A way/course.	Pull out the weeds from the root so they won't grow back. I've carefully planned my route so I shouldn't get lost.
rose (row-zuh) rows	A flower. A line.	A secret admirer sent me a rose today. Sit in six rows of four.
sail (say-yull) sale	To drive a boat. To exchange goods for money/items on offer.	I'll sail across the seven seas. I bought these earrings in the sale.
scene (see-nuh) seen	Part of a play/a setting. The past participle of `see`.	The scene is filmed in a cemetery. Have you seen Jumanji?
sea(s) (see-zuh) see(s)	The ocean. To look.	I live on Ocean Drive, it's next to the sea. I see a lovely bunch of coconuts.
sew (so-wuh) so sow	To stitch. As. Plant seeds.	I want to sew a cool patch on my jeans. So...chicken or beef? I must sow my beans before it's too late.
soar (sor-uh) sore	To fly like a bird. To hurt/be painful.	The eagle soared through the sky. I fell over at work and my wrist is sore.
sole (sow-luh) soul	The bottom of your foot/a fish. The spiritual part of a being.	I've bought a nice bit of sole for supper. The eyes are the window to the soul.
some (suh-muh) sum	A part of something. Total.	Save me some pizza. I'll sum up the whole presentation at the end.
son (sun) sun	Your male child. The hot ball in the sky.	Listen to me son and I'll give you some free advice. I wanna see the sunshine after the rain.

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stair(s) (stay-er) stare(s)	A step. A step/Gaze for a long period.	Be careful of the bottom stair, it's wobbly. Don't stare too much, you'll go blind.
steal (stee-yull) steel	To rob/take. A metal.	Stop stealing my tights, I need them for work. I bought a new stainless-steel pan for the kitchen.
suite (swee-tuh) sweet	A set of rooms/a sofa. A candy.	My new three-piece suite is arriving in the morning. I have a really sweet tooth.
tail (tay-yul) tale	The end part of an animal. A story.	Why do they cut off dog's tails? Don't tell tales.
tea (tee) tee	A very British drink. A stand for a golf ball.	I'll put the kettle on and we can have a cup of tea. I'm not very good at golf, I keep breaking all my tees.
tense (ten-suh) tents	Stressed/on edge. A fabric house.	Things are tense in the office at the moment. I've borrowed the tents off a mate.
their (theh-ruh) there they're	Belonging to them. Over there/a direction/place. Contraction of `they are`.	Their kid keeps screaming. There she goes. They're coming at 8.
threw (th-roo) through	The past simple of `throw`. To enter/go past.	I threw eggs at Mrs. Humphrey's windows. Go through the shop and out the other side.
throne (thro-wn) thrown	A royal seat. The past participle of `throw`.	The queen's throne is made of gold. We have thrown six parties this year.
tide tied	The ocean's movement. To be busy/in a knot.	Watch out! High tide is at 4:36 this afternoon. My hands are tied, I can't give you anymore discount.
to (2) too two	As a preposition. Also. The number.	Is this the way to Amarillo? Too many cooks spoil the broth. Tonight, is the night when two become one.
toad (tow-duh) towed	A frog like creature. The past tense of `tow`.	Can we have toad in the hole for dinner? I parked on double yellow lines; my car got towed.
toe (tow-uh) tow	The fingers of your feet. A vehicle pulling another vehicle.	I stubbed my little toe, I'm in bloody agony. We're going to tow the caravan to Edinburgh.
wail (way-yul) whale	To cry. A giant oceanic mammal.	The dog howls and wails all day. Where do you way a whale? A whale-weigh station!
waist (way-stuh) waste	Mid-section of the body. Rubbish/trash.	I need a belt for a 38-inch waist. Turn the lights off, don't waste electricity!
wait (way-tuh) weight	Pause for a while. How heavy something is.	Stop, wait a minute Mr. Postman. Can you guess the weight of my gerbil?
way(s) (way-zuh) weigh(s)	A manner. The weight of something.	I did it my way. The little one weighs 15 pounds.

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weak (wee-kuh) week	Feeble/frail. Seven days.	I haven't eaten all week; I feel so weak. I've just finished week one of my paleo diet.
wear (weh-ruh) where	To have clothes on your body. Of place or position.	I'll wear my red heels as they match my bag. Home is where the heart is.
weather (weh-ther) whether	Atmospheric conditions. A conjunction.	British people always talk about the weather. I don't know whether to go out tonight or not.
which (wuh-ich) witch	Alternative preferences. An ugly, evil, old woman.	Which do you prefer, yellow, gold or beige? Which witch is the good witch?
who's whose	The contraction of `who is`. Association, belonging.	Who's that new guy who plays for United? Whose round is it?
wood (wud) would	A material from trees. Past of will/a request/conditional.	I can't see the wood for the trees. I would do anything for love.
your you're	Belonging to. The contraction of `you are`.	I'll see your £30, and I'll raise you £15. You're the one that I want.