

ENGLISH

Unit 6: Homonyms



Pre-Intermediate English with

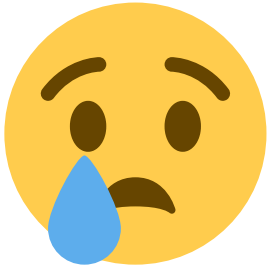
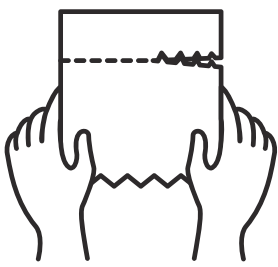
THE INSPIRE ACADEMY

What is a Homonym?




- Homonyms are two words that either sound the same and are spelled differently or are spelled the same but sound differently
- Homonyms can be very confusing for the English language learner so it is good to know what they are.
- There are two different types of homonyms:
 - Homophone
 - Homograph
- In the following pages these two types will be explained more thoroughly.
- In this unit you will learn the difference between the homonyms and you will learn how to spot them.
- You will also learn many common homonyms so that you can be prepared for the future if you see them.


Homographs

- Homographs are words that have the same spelling as another word but these two words have entirely different meanings.
- Example:
 - Tear and Tear
- Seeing how the words are spelled the same but they each have different meanings:
 - Tear = 
 - Tear = 
- In the first example tear could mean the liquid that comes from your eye when you cry.
- In the second example it could mean tear as in you tear a piece of paper out of a notebook.

Homophones

- Homophones are two words that have different spelling but they are pronounced exactly the same.
- Example:
 - Bear and Bare
- Seeing how the words are spelled differently but when they are said they sound the same, yet have different meanings:

◦ Bear = 

◦ Bare = 

- In the first example bear means the animal.
- In the second example bare means something is bare, or has nothing on it, like a bare foot.

Homograph Examples

- Can -

- The verb "Can" or "to be able to"
- The object Can



- Fall -

- The verb "to fall"
- The season Fall

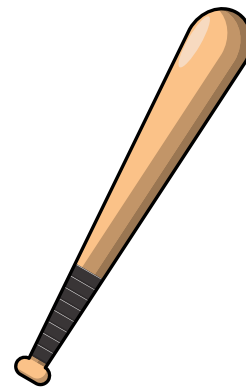


- Capital -

- Capital city of a country
- Capital letter (aA, bB, cC, etc.)

- Bat -

- Baseball bat
- Bat the animal



- Bass -

- Bass guitar
- Bass fish




- Letter

- Letters (a, b, c, d, etc.)
- Letter that you mail



Homophone Examples



- High or Hi -
 - High as in altitude
 - Hi as in "hello"
- Facts or Fax -
 - Facts as in scientific facts
 - Fax as in fax machine
- Knew or New -
 - Knew as in past tense of to know
 - New as in something just made
- Mail or Male -
 - Mail as in mail box
 - Male as in the male gender
- Hole or Whole -
 - Hole as in a hole in a box
 - Whole as in something in its entirety
- Knight or Night -
 - Knight as in medieval warrior
 - Night as in when it is not day

EXERCISE

Match each word with their corresponding homograph or homophone

Peace

Pear

Know

Bar

Where

Peek

Pair

Live

Peak

Desert

Your

Piece

Live

No

Won

One

Desert

You're

Bar

Wear

EXERCISE

Please state whether the paired words are a homograph or a homophone:



1) Bare and Bear

2) Bat and Bat

3) Night and Knight

4) Bank and Bank

5) Lesson and Lessen

6) Quarter and Quarter

7) Made and Maid


8) Not and Naught

9) Tear and Tear

EXERCISE

Please write 5 sentences using different pairs of homonyms.

FRIEND EXERCISE



For this friend exercise you and your friend must each choose 6 different pairs of homonyms (3 homographs, 3 homophones) and write them down on the next page.

Then you should switch your list with your friend and each of you should take turns saying each homonym and try to describe or act out the words meaning.

This will help you to understand the difference between each word.

Make sure to use different pairs!

Good luck!

FRIEND EXERCISE

You may use this paper for the exercise.

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