

# Homonyms, Homophones and Homographs



# Homonyms, Homophones and Homographs

- The Greek prefix *homo-* means 'the same'.

# Homonyms

- Homonyms are words that have the same spelling and pronunciation, but different meanings.

For example:

bit- a small item of something;

bit- past tense of the verb 'to bite'

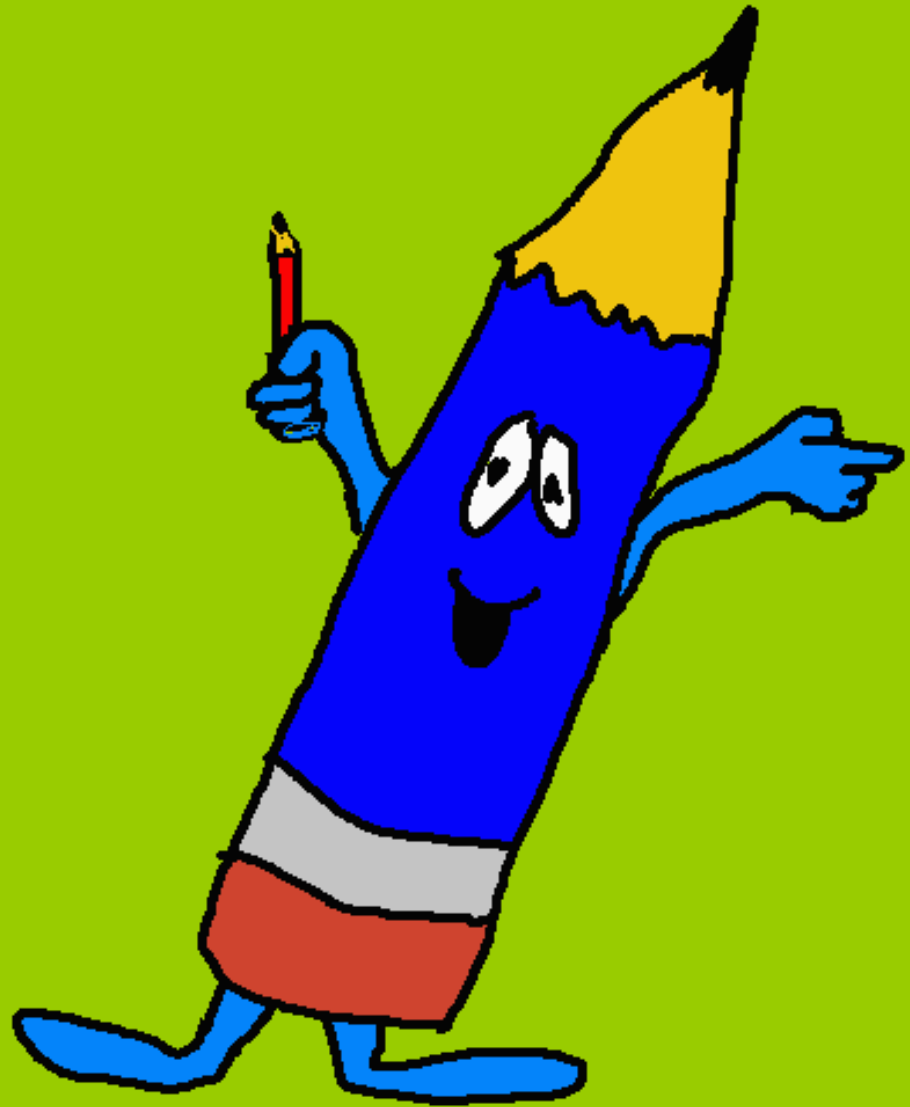
# Homophone


- Homophones are words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

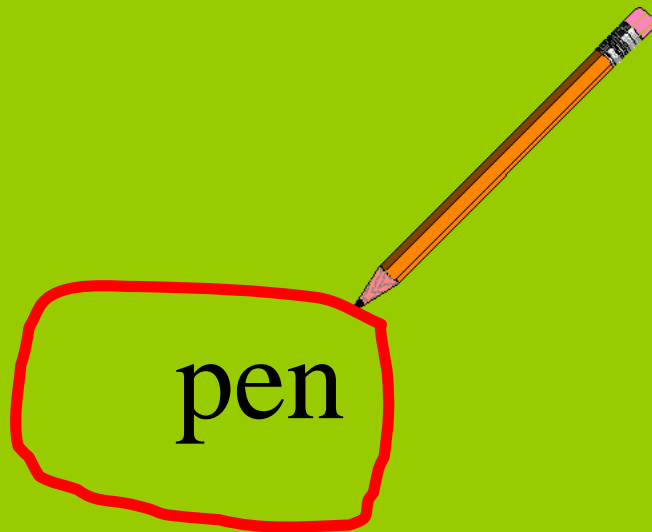
blue- a colour

blew- the past tense of the verb 'blow'

Let's  
practice!



**Homophones are words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Locate the homophone that makes sense in the sentence below. Use the  to circle it.**



pin



The phone began to   
just as I stepped in the house.

ring

wring



The phone began to   
just as I stepped in the house.

ring

wring





**The duck is near that  
over there.**



**reed**

**read**



The duck is near that  
over there.



reed

read



**I loved the second  
of that play.**



**scene**

**seen**



**I loved the second  
of that play.**



**scene**

**seen**



The  of bread baking  
was all through the house.

scent

sent



The  of bread baking  
was all through the house.

scent

sent



**The watch doesn't  
to be working.**



**seam**

**seem**



**The watch doesn't  
to be working.**



**seam**

**seem**





**Take a quick**   
**at the baby.**

**peak**

**peek**



Take a quick   
at the baby.

peak

peek



I lost my new



of glasses.

pair

pear



I lost my new



of glasses.

pair

pear



**The library book was  
three days  .**

**overdo**

**overdue**



The library book was  
three days  .

overdo

overdue



Look at the box below. Use what you have learned about homophones to circle the letter of the picture that best completes the sentence.

**HOMOPHONES** are words that *sound the same* but have *different meanings* and may have *different spellings*.

**See** means to look at with the eyes.



**Sea** means the salt waters that cover the earth's surface.



1. I ate a sandwich and a \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch.

**A**



**pair**

**B**



**pear**

2. Daisies are my favorite \_\_\_\_\_.

**A**



**flour**

**B**



**flower**

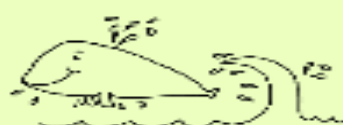
3. The baby started to \_\_\_\_\_ when she dropped her bottle.

**A**



**wail**

**B**



**whale**

**Homophones** are words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

8



Jim **ate** **eight**  
slices of  
pizza today!

Choose the correct homophone to use in each sentence.

- |             |              |   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| <b>pail</b> | <b>pale</b>  | 1. They collected sea shells in the_____.         |
| <b>Two</b>  | <b>To</b>    | 2. _____friends went to the concert.              |
| <b>here</b> | <b>hear</b>  | 3. Do you_____that noise?                         |
| <b>wear</b> | <b>where</b> | 4. I am going to_____my new sweater.              |
| <b>so</b>   | <b>sew</b>   | 5. He will have to_____his button onto his shirt. |
| <b>hi</b>   | <b>high</b>  | 6. The snow fell_____in the mountains.            |
| <b>wood</b> | <b>would</b> | 7. Collect some_____for the fire.                 |
| <b>be</b>   | <b>bee</b>   | 8. A honey_____flew to the hive.                  |
| <b>blew</b> | <b>blue</b>  | 9. The wind_____across the water.                 |
| <b>knew</b> | <b>new</b>   | 10. I_____you would come!                         |



# How did you do?



# Homographs

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

For example:

close- a verb meaning ‘shut’

close- an adjective meaning ‘near to’

## Common Homographs:

Now that you  
know what they  
are,  
here are examples  
of homographs:

- accent - stress or emphasis/a manner of speaking or pronunciation influenced by the region in which one lives or grew up
- bass - a deep voice or tone/a kind of fish
- bat - a piece of sporting equipment used in baseball/a winged animal associated with vampires
- bow - to bend at the waist/the front of a boat/a pair of tied loops
- content - happy or satisfied/all that is contained inside something

## Common Homographs:

- desert - a hot, arid region/to leave
- digest - a condensed version of some information/to change food in the stomach into a form that can be absorbed by the body
- does - female deer (plural)/present, third person singular form of the verb “do”
- down - in a lower position/soft, furry feathers
- entrance - the place of entry/to bewitch, delight or enrapture

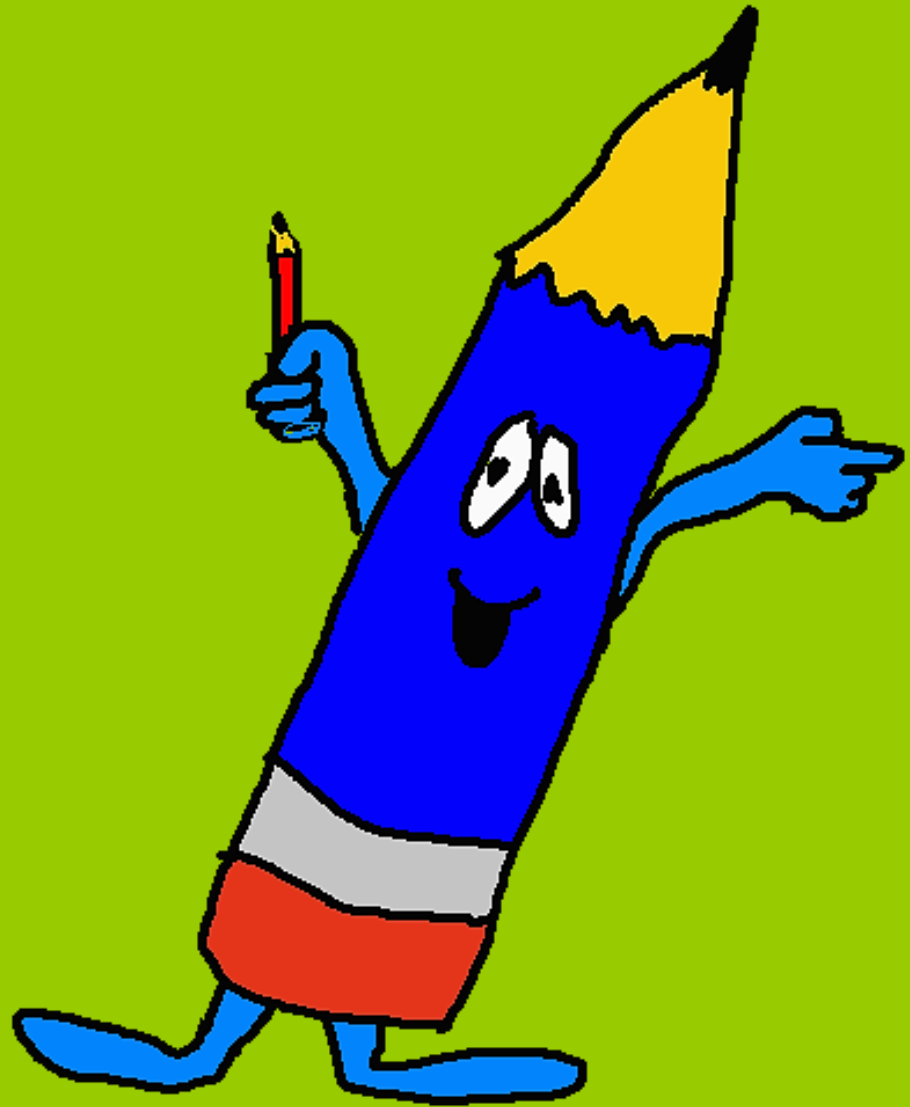
## Common Homographs:

- fine - very good/sharp or keen/delicate or subtle/a sum of money paid to settle a matter
- incense - a substance that produces a pleasant odor when burned/to infuriate or make very angry
- lead - to go first with followers behind/a type of metal
- minute - 60 seconds or 1/60th of an hour/extremely small

## Common Homographs:

- moped - acted sad or gloomy/a bicycle with a motor
- produce - to create or make/fresh fruits and vegetables
- refuse - waste or garbage/to reject or decline to accept
- second - 1/60th of a minute/after the first
- tear - to rip/a drop of water from the eye
- wind - to turn/moving air
- wound - turned/an injury

Let's  
practice!



*Homographs are those words which have one spelling but two different meanings or usages. In the following sentences, underline the homograph that matches the meaning shown.*

1. The bow of a ship is curved like a bow. *Used to shoot arrows*
2. He took a bow after shooting the bow and arrow well. *Bend forward*
3. The crew did well in digging the well. *Source of water*
4. Does the deer herd have many does? *Female deer*



5. Can you lead us to the harmful lead paint? *Show the way*

6. A minute is minute compared to a day. *Very small*

7. She moped because her moped was broken.  
*Small motorcycle*

## • Answer Key

1. The bow of a ship is curved like a bow. *Used to shoot arrows*
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# Homework:

## *Exercise: Homonyms*

The following words all have at least two different meanings. Use each word in at least two different sentences which make their meanings clear:

bear bow fair lap lean lie page pen plain train

## *Exercise: Homophones*

Use each of the following pairs of words in sentences, making clear the differences in their meanings:

allowed/aloud ascent/assent bare/bear berth/birth cereal/serial  
flair/flare freeze/frieze higher/hire hoarse/horse pedal/peddle

## *Exercise: Homographs*

The following words have a different meaning depending on how they are pronounced. Write two sentences for each word to illustrate their different meanings:

bow desert entrance lead live minute refuse row wind wound

OOPS!



How did you do?  
To find more homophones visit  
the [Homophone Dictionary](#)  
online.

