

Homophones

buy by

Objectives

- Understand what a “homophone” is.
- To identify same sounding words with different meanings and spellings.
- Explain how they are used within the different contexts.
- Understand the meanings of the words highlighted.
- Discuss the importance of using the correct word in English sentence structure.

What are “Homophones”?

- Homophones are common words that are used frequently within the English language.
- They sound the same, however, they have a different meaning and are spelt differently.





Confusion

- Within academic writing, it is important to be able to understand the meaning of words.
- There are many different words that sound the same, however, they do not mean the same and they are also spelt differently.
- Within any writing, not just academic writing, incorrect usage of words can look poor, sloppy and unprofessional.
- Being able to distinguish the different meanings of words can ensure that the words are used in the correct context.

Words that sound the same but have different meanings (Homophones).

Words such as two, to and too, all sound the same, however, they have very different meanings.

For example;

- There are **two** spaces available within the carpark. **Two** *means the number of something.*
- The dog runs from door **to** door. **To** *describes where the dog is going.*
- He's only **too** willing to be of service. **Too** *confirms his willingness to help.*

There are a number of homophones within the English language. Listed below are some of the words that are widely used such as:

- **They're** is the shortened form of **they are**.
- **Their** means **belonging to them**.
- **There** has two uses: To mean **a place**,

For example;

- **They're** going to visit their Mum.
- Someone left **their** book on the table.
- The garage is over **there**.
- **There** is a green car in the garage.

Remember:

- Incorrect usage of words can alter the sentence meaning.
- This causes confusion and may also cause you to express something different to what you intended to within the sentence.
- It can also cause embarrassment within official letter writing, and formal documents such as job applications/CVs.

YouTube clip on Homophones



Some words that are spelt differently but sound the same.

flour	flower
for	four
hair	hare
heal	heel
hear	here
him	hymn
hole	whole
hour	our
idle	idol

Activity:

Students to choose the missing red homophone from the end of the sentence and fill in the missing blank.

1. There is a big _____ over there.
2. That's my friend over _____.
3. Is this _____ mess?
4. I like to _____ 250 words every day.
5. That is a beautiful red _____.
6. There is a great big _____ in your shoe.
7. You have lovely shiny _____.
8. Gareth bale is my _____
9. There are _____ parts to the story.
10. The clock strikes every _____.

Bare or Bear

There, their or they're

Your or you're

Write, right or rite.

Flour or flower

Whole or hole

Hair or Hare

Idle or idol

For or four

Our or hour

Answers to Activity

- There is a big **bear** over there.
- That's my friend over **there**.
- Is this **your** mess?
- I like to **write** 250 words every day.
- That is a beautiful red **flower**.
- There is a great big **hole** in your shoe.
- You have lovely shiny **hair**.
- Gareth Bale is my **idol**.
- There are **four** parts to the story.
- The clock strikes every **hour**.

Examples of Homophones

Please see Academic Writing section on Moodle for a more extensive list of examples of pairs of words which people are often confused by.



Summarise

- Understand what a homophone is.
- To identify same sounding words with different meanings and spellings.
- Explain how they are used within the different contexts.
- Understand the meanings of the words highlighted.
- Discuss the importance of using the correct word in English sentence structure

Any Questions?

References

YouTube, (2019) *Know Homophones*. Available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OwX6tjOztY> (Accessed 22nd
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