

Homonyms, Homographs, and Homophones

Homonyms: Words that have the same spelling and same pronunciation, but different meanings.



Directions: Choose (a) or (b)

Example: I hope you are not *lying* (a) to me.
My books are *lying* (b) on the table.

- (a) telling a lie
(b) being in a horizontal position

- The kids are going to *watch* ____ TV tonight.
What time is it? I have to set my *watch* ____.
(a) small clock worn on the wrist
(b) look at
- Which *page* ____ is the homework on?
Please *page* ____ the doctor if you need help.
(a) one sheet of paper
(b) to call someone on an electronic pager
- Let's *play* ____ soccer after school.
The author wrote a new *play* ____.
(a) participate in a sport
(b) theater piece
- Ouch! The mosquito *bit* ____ me!
I'll have a little *bit* ____ of sugar in my tea.
(a) a tiny amount
(b) past tense of bite
- My rabbits are in a *pen* ____ outside.
Please sign this form with a black *pen* ____.
(a) a writing instrument which uses ink
(b) an enclosed area

Homographs: Words that have the same spelling, but different pronunciations and meanings.



Directions: Choose (a) or (b)

Example: The *wind* (a) is blowing hard.
I have to *wind* (b) my clock.

- (a) moving air (rhymes with *pinned*)
(b) turn the stem (rhymes with *find*)

- The singer made a low *bow* ____ to the audience.
Maria placed a red *bow* ____ on the birthday gift.
(a) decorative ribbon (rhymes with *so*)
(b) bend at the waist (rhymes with *how*)
- All the students are *present* ____ today.
The boss will *present* ____ the award at 10:00.
(a) here (rhymes with *pleasant*)
(b) give (rhymes with *resent*)
- Please *close* ____ the door.
The boy sat *close* ____ to his uncle.
(a) near (rhymes with *dose*)
(b) shut (rhymes with *toes*)
- The rope was *wound* ____ around his ankles.
The soldier received a *wound* ____ in the battle.
(a) tied around (rhymes with *pound*)
(b) an injury (rhymes with *moon*)
- I don't know if I will *live* ____ or die.
Last night I saw the band play *live* ____ in concert.
(a) to have life (rhymes with *give*)
(b) in real time performance (rhymes with *hive*)

Homophones: Words that have the same pronunciation, but different spelling and different meanings.

Directions: Choose the correct word.

Example: Please try not to (waste, waist) paper.



1. Can I go to the party (*to, too, two*)?
2. This is my favorite (*pare, pair, pear*) of jeans.
3. I (*sent, scent, cent*) a letter to my aunt in Vietnam.
4. The children got (*bored, board*) during the lecture.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez like to work in (*there, they're, their*) garden.
6. Alec is going to (*wear, ware*) his work boots today.
7. Do you think it is going to (*rein, rain, reign*) this afternoon?
8. I saw a restaurant just off the (*rode, road*) about a mile back.
9. David's brother is in a (*band, banned*) which plays Russian music.
10. Juana wants her socks because her (*tows, toes*) are cold.
11. The teacher walked down the (*aisle, isle*) between the rows of desks.
12. Hadil has a (*pane, pain*) in her shoulder.
13. The school (*principal, principle*) spoke to a group of parents.
14. The clerk wants to (*sell, cell*) as many TVs as possible.
15. I don't want to talk about the (*passed, past*) anymore.
16. Nobody (*knows, nose*) what you are thinking.
17. I have (*for, four, fore*) dollars in my pocket.
18. I need to take a (*break, brake*) from this exercise!
19. Humans have hands. Dogs have (*paws, pause*).
20. (*He'll, Heel, Heal*) be here in a few minutes.