

# WHAT ARE HOMONYMS?

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

**Key:**

(adj.)–adjective  
(n.)–noun  
(pron.)–pronoun

(adv.)–adverb  
(poss.)–possessive  
(v.)–verb

(conj.)–conjunction  
(prep.)–preposition  
(cont.)–contraction

Word	Part of Speech & Definition	Example Sentences
accept	(v.) to take, to receive	Will Tim accept this gift?
except	(v.) to exclude, to leave out	Do not except Alisha from the game.
except	(prep.) excluding	Everyone except for Kevin went to bed.
affect	(v.) to influence	Nathan will greatly affect his brother.
affect	(v.) to change, to assume	This will affect the time of the meeting.
effect	(n.) result, impression	There is a cause for every effect.
effect	(v.) to bring about	We hope this will effect change in Andy’s life.
ate	(v.) past tense of eat	Ashley ate the whole box of ice cream!
eight	(adj.) a number	Tasha brought eight apples with her.
bass	(adj.) lower notes in music	The bass notes are lower.
bass	(n.) a fish	Tom wants to go catch a bass.
base	(n.) foundation	We need to build on a good strong base.
basis	(n.) foundation	The basis of my lesson is Bible study methods.
bases	(n.) plural of base and basis	The bases of writing are grammar and creativity.
beat	(n.) throb; tempo	Drummers lay down the beat.
beat	(v.) to strike	Jeremiah beat the drum with gusto!
beet	(n.) a vegetable	Telson dreaded the day his mom served beets.
beside	(adv.) by the side of	Anna always parks her car beside the sidewalk.
besides	(conj.) in addition to, also	There are two quizzes besides the state quiz.
blew	(v.) past tense of blow	The wind blew the boat off its intended course.
blue	(adj.) a color	CJ’s blue shirt brings out the color of her eyes.
board	(n.) a piece of wood	We put a board on the roof to fix the leak.
board	(v.) to enter (a ship, train, etc.)	Hannah boarded the train.
board	(n.) an organized group	The board met to discuss the needs of the church.
board	(n.) meals	Room and board are included in the cost.
bored	(adj.) to feel boredom	I am so bored because there is nothing to do!
breath	(n.) respiration	That movie took my breath away.
breathe	(v.) to inhale and exhale	Breathe in. Breathe out.
breadth	(n.) width	The breadth of that box is very long.
capital	(n.) a principal sum of money	Keith has the use of ample capital.
capital	(n.) a city that is the government seat	Topeka is the capital of Kansas.
capital	(n.) a large-sized letter	Sentences start with capital letters.
capital	(adj.) chief; punishable by death	Texas instituted capital punishment for murder.
capitol	(n.) the building where the state legislative body meets.	The Senate conducts its sessions in the capitol.

Capitol	(n.) the building where U.S. Congress meets	The Capitol is located in Washington, D.C.
casual	(adj.) incidental	Blake's casual attitude shows a lack of worry.
causal	(adj.) causing	Unwashed hands are causal agents of illness.
cell	(n.) a small compartment	The criminal was thrown in the jail cell.
sell	(v.) to transfer for a price	You can sell your old textbooks in the Ka-Bar.
choose	(v.) to select	You must choose to serve God rather than man.
chose	(v.) did choose (past tense of choose)	Kayla chose to attend the concert.
chews	(v.) masticates	When she chews gum, everyone knows it!
cite	(v.) to quote; to summon	Cite John 3:16; do not paraphrase it.
sight	(n.) a view; vision	Stay within my sight; I do not want to lose you!
site	(n.) a place	This is the site of the old church building.
coarse	(adj.) rough; common	The coarse clothing rubbed her skin raw.
course	(n.) direction; action; a way; part of a meal	Google maps are used to keep oneself on the right course.
conscience	(n.) the sense of right and wrong	My conscience tells me what is wrong.
conscious	(adj.) cognizant, sensible, aware	I am conscious of that fact.
council	(n.) an assembly	The council met to discuss the rebuilding plan.
consul	(n.) a foreign representative	The President met with the French consul.
counsel	(n.) an attorney; advice	Jerome went to his father for wise counsel.
counsel	(v.) to give advice	Counsel others using the truths of Scripture.
curser	(n.) one who curses	The curser's language was quite inappropriate.
cursor	(n.) a symbol used as a pointer on a computer screen	Kyle pointed to the website link with the cursor.
dessert	(n.) final course of a meal	The cherry pie looks so good for dessert!
desert	(n.) barren land	Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years.
desert	(v.) to abandon; to leave	I thought you were going to desert me!
dew	(n.) moisture	The dew on the spider web sparkled in the light.
do	(v.) to perform	You must do this with precision.
due	(adj.) expected to be ready	The due date for this paper is April 29.
emerge	(v.) to rise out of	He will emerge from the pit.
immerge	(v.) to plunge into	He will immerge himself in his homework.
emigrate	(v.) to go away from a country	Felicia will emigrate from Spain to settle in Italy.
immigrate	(v.) to come into a country	To immigrate to North Korea would be difficult.
fair	(adj.) free from bias	Melissa's fair grading makes her a good teacher.
fair	(adj.) neither excellent nor poor	Christopher is in fair health.
fair	(n.) an exhibit	Her famous pie won a blue ribbon at the fair.
fare	(n.) cost of travel; food	It costs two dollars for the bus fare.
fare	(v.) to experience good or bad fortune	Sid fared well in his profession.
forth	(adv.) onward, forward, out, away	Sally is not sure she will go forth with the plan.
forth	(prep.) out of	Eve came forth from Adam.
fourth	(adj.) next after the third; one of four	Katie removed the fourth pan from the oven.
heal	(v.) to cure	I hope the medicine will heal Isaac.
heel	(n.) part of a foot or a shoe	Those sandals have a four-inch heel!
hear	(v.) to perceive by ear	Can you hear the rain now?
here	(adv.) in this place	Meet me here after supper.

holy	(adj.) sacred	God is absolutely holy.
holey	(adj.) full of holes	A few years ago, holey jeans came into style.
wholly	(adv.) entirely	Stan is wholly aware of the upcoming recital.
hole	(n.) opening; gap; hollow place.	The rain came through the hole in the roof.
whole	(adj.) comprising the full quantity	Aaron ate the whole pie.
imminent	(adj.) impending, threatening, close	Christ's coming is imminent.
eminent	(adj.) prominent, famous	The President is an eminent person.
immanent	(adj.) inherent, residing within	Sinful responses are immanent in our hearts.
insure	(v.) to protect against loss	The company will insure Charis's car.
ensure	(v.) to make certain	This letter will ensure you a hearing.
assure	(v.) to give confidence to someone	Frank assured you that it is not an issue.
its	(poss. pron.) possessive form of "it"	The tractor is doing its job.
it's	(cont.) it is, it has	It's a difficult problem to understand.
knew	(v.) understood	He knew that he had an assignment coming up.
new	(adj.) fresh; novel	Is that a new sweatshirt?
know	(v.) to understand as fact	I know that God is faithful.
no	(adv.) used to emphasize or introduce	His recovery was no small miracle.
lead	(adj.) a thin stick of marking substance	Ted uses pens, but he prefers lead pencils.
led	(v.) to guide; to direct	The dog led the police to the drug stash.
lessen	(v.) to make smaller	How can we lessen your pain?
lesson	(n.) exercise assignment	This math lesson is so hard!
lose	(v.) to fail to keep, preserve, or maintain	I'm trying hard to not lose patience with her.
loose	(adj.) free; not bound; not firm	The knot might not hold since it is loose.
maybe	(adv.) perhaps	Maybe Stephanie will come to the game.
may be	(v.) a verb with two words	It may be a nice day tomorrow.
one	(adj.) a single thing	With one second left, Brittany scored to win.
won	(v.) did win	The Calvary soccer team won the tournament.
poor	(adj.) inadequate	Lying is a poor excuse.
poor	(n.) the needy	God has compassion on the poor.
pore	(v.) to study; to gaze intently	Pore over your notes, but take study breaks.
pour	(v.) to flow	Please pour the coffee carefully!
pray	(v.) to beseech	God wants his children to pray to him.
prey	(n.) a captured victim	The eagle stalked his prey.
precede	(v.) to go before	Women will precede men in the line.
proceed	(v.) to advance	The geese proceeded towards the students.
principle	(n.) fundamental law or truth	Jesse did not compromise his principles.
principal	(adj.) first in rank, importance, value	Her principal goal is to finish her homework.
principal	(n.) a chief or head	My high school principal gave good advice.
prophecy	(n.) a prediction	The prophecy may come true.
prophesy	(v.) to foretell	I cannot prophesy the future.
rain	(n.) falling water	The rain hit the windshield with force.
rein	(n.) part of the bridle of a horse	Steer the horse with the reins.
reign	(v.) to rule	I hope King George will reign forever.
read	(v.) to perform the act of reading	Hannah read the entire book in one day.
red	(adj.) a color	Adam received a red wagon for Christmas.

scent	(n.) odor	The scent of the candle wafted into the room.
sent	(v.) did send	Rachel sent Grace to the store.
cent	(n.) penny; 1/100 of a dollar	The poor woman gave every cent to the Lord.
shown	(v.) displayed; revealed	Have you shown the farm to Sydney?
shone	(v.) gave off light; did shine	The Christmas lights shone brightly.
sole	(adj.) one and only	One's sole desire ought to be to glorify God.
soul	(n.) the immortal spirit	At death, one's soul either goes to heaven or hell.
stationary	(adj.) fixed	Riding on the stationary bicycle is monotonous.
stationery	(n.) writing materials	Justine wrote a letter on beautiful stationery.
steal	(v.) to take unlawfully	Do not steal from anyone.
steel	(adj.) a form of iron	Dropping a steel ball on one's toe is painful.
than	(conj.) more than	He is older than I am.
than	(prep.) in comparison with	You are older than me.
then	(adv.) at that time	The door was opened; then the bride entered.
their	(poss. pron.) belonging to them	Their baby is so cute!
there	(adv.) in that place	Put the chest over there.
they're	(cont.) they are	They're coming to dinner tonight.
theirs	(pron.) possessive form of they	The television is theirs.
there's	(cont.) there is or there has	There's a dog downstairs.
through	(prep.) from one to the other	Elizabeth walked through the doorway.
through	(adv.) in at one end and out the other	Stephen and Ben are just passing through.
through	(adj.) finished	When will you be through with school?
threw	(v.) did throw	The quarterback threw the ball to his receiver.
thorough	(adj.) exhaustive	They conducted a thorough search for the key.
to	(prep.) toward	Kyla went to the cafeteria.
too	(adv.) more than enough, also	There are too many words in this sentence.
two	(adj.) one plus one	Two heads are better than one.
waist	(n.) part of the body	The older man gained weight around his waist.
waste	(n.) needless destruction	The city was laid to waste.
wear	(v.) to have on	Ladies have difficulty choosing what to wear.
were	(v.) form of to be	You were at the play last night, were you not?
where	(adv.) at, in, or to what place	Where is the closest Walmart?
weak	(adj.) not strong	After the surgery, Angie was weak.
week	(n.) seven days	Spring break lasts for one week.
weather	(n.) the state of the atmosphere	The weather tomorrow is supposed to be rainy.
weather	(v.) to come through safely	Cynthia weathered the hardest time of her life.
whether	(conj.) used to introduce the first of two or more alternatives	I do not know whether to go hiking or swimming.
whose	(pron.) of or relating to whom or which	The king, whose name was Arthur, slept.
who's	(cont.) who is, who has	Who's the one who stole the horse?
your	(adj.) of or relating to you or yourself(s)	The collar of your shirt is turned up.
you're	(cont.) you are	You're absolutely the nicest person.