

HOMOPHONES

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings and usually different spellings. Recognizing homophones is particularly important because computer “spell check” programs do not recognize them as spelling errors.

This list contains only homophones that have different spellings. If a pair has the same spelling (for example, bat meaning a flying animal and bat meaning a club), they are included in the homograph list. The term homonym can include both homophones (same sound) and homographs (same spelling).

acts (deeds)	aloud (audible)	aye (yes)	base (lower part)
ax (tool)	altar (in a church)	eye (organ of sight)	bass (deep tone)
ad (advertisement)	alter (change)	I (pronoun)	based (at a base)
add (addition)	ant (insect)	bail (throw out water)	baste (cover with liquid)
aid (assistance)	aunt (relative)	bale (bundle)	basis (foundation)
aide (helper)	ante (before)	bait (lure)	bask (warm feeling)
ail (be sick)	anti (against)	bate (to decrease)	Basque (country)
ale (beverage)	arc (part of a circle)	ball (round object)	bazaar (market)
air (oxygen)	ark (boat)	bawl (cry)	bizarre (odd)
heir (successor)	ascent (climb)	band (plays music)	be (exist)
already	assent (agree)	banned (forbidden)	bee (insect)
aisle (path)	assistance (help)	bard (poet)	beach (shore)
I'll (I will)	assistants (those who help)	barred (having bars)	beech (tree)
isle (island)	ate (did eat)	bare (nude)	bearing (manner, machine)
already (previous)	eight (number)	bear (animal)	baring (uncovering)
all ready (all are ready)	attendance (presence)	baron (nobleman)	beat (whip)
allowed (permitted)	attendants (escorts)	barren (no fruit)	beet (vegetable)
beau (boyfriend)	boarder (one who boards)	bridal (relating to bride)	capital (money; city)
bow (decorative knot)	border (boundary)	Britain (country)	Capitol (building of U.S. Congress)
been (past participle of be)	bolder (more bold)	Briton (Englishman)	cast (throw; actors in a play)
bin (box)	boulder (big stone)	broach (bring up)	caste (social class)

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bell (something you ring)	born (delivered at birth)	but (except)	cause (origin)
belle (pretty woman)	borne (carried)	butt (end)	caws (crow calls)
berry (fruit)	borough (town)	buy (purchase)	cede (grant)
bury (put in the ground)	burro (donkey)	by (near)	seed (part of a plant)
berth (bunk)	burrow (dig)	bye (farewell)	ceiling (top of room)
birth (born)	bough (of a tree)	cache (hiding place)	sealing (closing)
better (more good)	bow (of a ship)	cash (money)	cell (prison room)
bettor (one who bets)	bouillon (clear broth)	callous (unfeeling)	sell (exchange for money)
bite (chew)	bullion (uncoined gold or silver)	callus (hard tissue)	cellar (basement)
byte (computer unit)	brake (stop)	cannon (big gun)	seller (one who sells)
billed (construct)	break (smash)	canon (law)	censor (ban)
build (construct)	bread (food)	canvas (cloth)	sensor (detection device)
blew (did blow)	bred (cultivated)	canvass (survey)	cereal (relating to grain)
blue (color)	brood (flock)	carat (weight of precious stones)	serial (of a series)
boar (hog)	bruise (bump)	carrot (vegetable)	cession (yielding)
bore (drill; tiresome)	bridle (headgear for horse)	carol (song)	session (meeting)
cent (penny)	chord (musical notes)	carrel (study space in library)	chance (luck)
scent (odor)	cord (string)	cue (prompt)	chants (songs)
sent (did send)	close (shut)	queue (line up)	do (shall)
chased (did chase)	clothes (clothing)	currant (small raisin)	dew (moisture)
chaste (modest)	cloze (test)	current (recent, fast part of a stream)	due (owed)
cheap (inexpensive)	coarse (rough)	curser (one who curses)	dual (two)
cheep (bird call)	course (path; school)	cursor (moving pointer)	duel (formal combat)
chews (bites)			

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choose (select)	complement (complete set)	desert (abandon)	faze (upset)
chic (style)	compliment (praise)	dessert (follows main course of meal)	phase (stage)
sheik (Arab chief)	coop (chicken pen)	die (expire)	feat (accomplishment)
chilly (cold)	coupe (car)	dye (color)	feet (plural of foot)
chili (hot pepper)	core (center)	disburse (pay out)	find (discover)
choral (music)	corps (army group)	disperse (scatter)	fined (penalty of money)
coral (reef)	correspondence (letters)	discreet (unobtrusive)	fir (tree)
chorale (chorus)	correspondents (writers)	discrete (noncontinuous)	fur (animal covering)
corral (pen for livestock)	council (legislative body)	doe (female deer)	flair (talent)
chute (slide)	counsel (advise)	dough (bread mixture)	flare (flaming signal))
shoot (discharge gun)	creak (grating noise)	duct (tube)	flea (insect)
cite (summon to court)	creek (stream)	ducked (did duck)	flee (run away
sight (see)	crews (groups of workers)	earn (work for)	flew (did fly)
site (location)	cruise (sail)	urn (container)	flu (influenza)
claws (nails on animal's feet)	cruel (hurting)	ewe (female sheep)	flour (milled grain)
clause (part of a sentence)	crewel (stitching)	you (personal pronoun)	flower (bloom)
click (small sound)	cymbal (percussion instrument)	fair (honest; bazaar)	for (in favor of)
clique (small exclusive subgroup)	symbol (sign)	fare (cost of transportation)	four (number 4)
colonel (military rank)	deer (animal)	fawn (baby deer)	foreword (preface)
kernel (grain of corn)	dear (greeting; loved one)	faun (mythical creature)	forward (front part)
forth (forward)	guessed (surmised)	heed (pay attention)	hour (sixty minutes)
fourth (after third)	guest (company)	he'd (he would)	our (possessive pronoun)
foul (bad)	hair (on head)	hertz (unit of wave frequency)	hurdle (jump over)
fowl (bird)	hare (rabbit)	hurts (pain)	hurtle (throw)

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franc (French money)	hall (passage)	him (pronoun)	jam (fruit jelly)
frank (honest)	haul (carry)	hymn (religious song)	jamb (window part)
freeze (cold)	hangar (storage building)	hoarse (husky voice)	leak (crack)
frees (to free)	hanger (to hang things on)	horse (animal)	leek (vegetable)
frieze (sculptured border)	halve (cut in half)	hole (opening)	lean (slender; incline)
friar (brother in religious order)	have (possess)	whole (complete)	lien (claim)
fryer (frying chicken)	hart (deer)	holey (full of holes)	leased (rented)
gate (fence opening)	heart (body organ)	holy (sacred)	least (smallest)
gait (foot movement)	hay (dried grass)	wholly (all)	lesson (instruction)
gilt (golden)	hey (expression to get attention)	horde (crowd)	lessen (make less)
guilt (opposite of innocence)	heal (make well)	hoard (hidden supply)	levee (embankment)
gnu (antelope)	heel (bottom of foot)	hostel (lodging for youth)	levy (impose by legal authority)
knew (did know)	he'll (he will)	hostile (unfriendly)	liar (untruthful)
new (opposite of old)	hear (listen)	idle (lazy)	lyre (musical instrument)
gorilla (animal)	here (this place)	in (opposite of out)	lichen (fungus)
guerrilla (irregular soldier)	heard (listened)	inn (hotel)	liken (compare)
grate (grind)	herd (group of animals)	insight (self knowledge)	lightening (become light)
great (large)	hew (carve)	incite (cause)	lightning (occurs with thunder)
groan (moan)	hue (color)	instance (example)	load (burden)
grown (cultivated)	hi (hello)	instants (short periods of time)	lode (vein or ore)
hail (ice; salute)	high (opposite of low)	insure (protect against loss)	loan (something borrowed)
hale (healthy)	higher (above)	ensure (make sure)	lone (single)
	hire (employ)	its (possessive pronoun)	loot (steal)
		it's (it is)	lute (musical instrument)

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low (not high; cattle sound)	meat (beef)	new (not old)	pail (bucket)
made (manufactured)	meet (greet)	knew (remembered)	pale (white)
maid (servant)	medal (award)	gnu (animal)	pain (discomfort)
mail (send by post)	meddle (interfere)	night (evening)	pane (window glass)
male (masculine)	might (may; strength)	knight (feudal warrior)	pair (two of a kind)
main (most important)	mite (small insect)	no (negative)	pare (peel)
Maine (state)	miner (coal digger)	know (familiar with)	pear (fruit)
mane (hair)	minor (juvenile)	none (not any)	palate (roof of mouth)
maize (Indian corn)	missed (failed to attain)	nun (religious sister)	palette (board for paint)
maze (confusing network of passages)	mist (fog)	not (in no manner)	pallet (tool)
mall (courtyard)	moan (groan)	knot (tangle)	passed (went by)
maul (attack)	mown (cut down)	oar (of a boat)	past (former)
manner (style)	mode (fashion)	or (conjunction)	patience (composure)
manor (estate)	mowed (cut down)	ore (mineral deposit)	patients (sick persons)
mantel (over fireplace)	morn (early day)	ode (poem)	pause (brief stop)
mantle (cloak)	mourn (grieve)	owed (did owe)	paws (feet of animals)
marry (join together)	muscle (flesh)	oh (exclamation)	peace (tranquility)
merry (gay)	mussel (shellfish)	owe (be indebted)	piece (part)
Mary (name)	naval (nautical)	one (number)	peak (mountaintop)
marshal (escort)	navel (depression on abdomen)	won (triumphed)	peek (look)
martial (militant)	nay (no)	overdo (go to extremes)	pique (offense)
massed (grouped)	neigh (whinny)	overdue (past due)	peal (ring)
mast (support)	need (require)	overseas (abroad)	peel (pare)
maybe (perhaps, adj.)	knead (mix with hands)	oversees (supervises)	pedal (ride a bike)
may be (is possible, v.)			peddle (sell)

HOMOPHONES

peer (equal)	rain (precipitation)	road (street)	serf (feudal servant)
pier (dock)	reign (royal authority)	rode (transported)	surf (waves)
per (for each)	rein (harness)	rowed (used oars)	sew (mend)
purr (cat sound)	raise (put up)	roe (fish eggs)	so (in order that)
pi (Greek letter)	raze (tear down)	row (line; use oars)	sow (plant)
pie (kind of pastry)	rays (of sun)	role (character)	shear (cut)
plain (simple)	rap (hit; talk)	roll (turn over; bread)	sheer (transparent)
plane (flat surface)	wrap (cover)	root (part of a plant)	shoe (foot covering)
plait (braid)	read (peruse)	route (highway)	shoo (drive away)
plate (dish)	reed (plant)	rose (flower)	shoot (use gun)
pleas (plural of plea)	read (perused; past of read)	rows (lines)	chute (trough)
please (to be agreeable)	red (color)	rote (by memory)	shone (beamed)
pole (stick)	real (genuine)	wrote (did write)	shown (exhibited)
poll (vote)	reel (spool)	rumor (gossip)	side (flank)
pore (ponder; skin gland)	reek (give off strong odor)	roomer (renter)	sighed (audible breath)
pour (flow freely)	wreak (inflict)	rung (step on a ladder; past tense of ring)	sign (signal)
pray (worship)	rest (relax)	wrung (squeezed)	sine (trigonometric function)
prey (victim)	wrest (force)	sail (travel by boat)	slay (kill)
presents (gifts)	review (look back)	sale (bargain)	sleigh (sled)
presence (appearance)	revue (musical)	scene (setting)	soar (fly)
principal (chief)	right (correct)	seen (viewed)	sore (painful)
principle (rule)	rite (ceremony)	sea (ocean)	sole (only)
profit (benefit)	write (inscribe)	see (visualize)	soul (spirit)
prophet (seer)	ring (circular band)	seam (joining mark)	some (portion)
rack (framework; torture)	wring (squeeze)	seem (appear to be)	sum (total)
wrack (ruin)			

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son (male offspring)	teas (plural of tea)	toad (frog)	waive (renounce)
sun (star)	tease (mock)	towed (pulled)	wave (swell)
stair (step)	team (crew)	toe (digit on foot)	ware (pottery)
stare (look intently)	teem (be full)	tow (pull)	wear (have on)
stake (post)	tear (cry)	told (informed)	where (what place)
steak (meat)	tier (level)	toll (rang)	way (road)
stationary (fixed)	tern (sea bird)	vain (conceited)	weigh (measure heaviness)
stationery (paper)	turn (rotate)	vane (wind indicator)	whey (watery part of milk)
steal (rob)	their (possessive pronoun)	vein (blood vessel)	ways (plural of way)
steel (metal)	there (at that place)	vale (valley)	weighs (heaviness)
step (walk)	they're (they are)	veil (face cover)	we (pronoun)
steppe (prairie of Europe or Asia)	theirs (possessive pronoun)	vary (change)	wee (small)
stile (gate)	there's (there is)	very (absolutely)	weak (not strong)
style (fashion)	threw (tossed)	vice (bad habit)	week (seven days)
straight (not crooked)	through (finished)	vise (clamp)	we'll (we will)
strait (channel of water)	throne (king's seat)	vile (disgusting)	wheel (circular frame)
suite (connected rooms)	thrown (tossed)	vial (small bottle)	weather (state of atmosphere)
sweet (sugary)	thyme (herb)	wade (walk in water)	whether (if)
tacks (plural of tack)	time (duration)	weighed (measured heaviness)	weave (interlace)
tax (assess; burden)	tic (twitch)	wail (cry)	we've (we have)
tail (animal's appendage)	tick (insect; sound of clock)	whale (sea mammal)	we'd (we would)
tale (story)	tide (ebb and flow)	waist (middle)	weed (plant)
taught (did teach)	tied (bound)	waste (trash)	which (what one)
taut (tight)	to (toward)	wait (linger)	witch (sorceress)
tea (drink)	too (also)	weight (heaviness)	whine (complaining sound)
tee (holder for golf ball)	two (number)		wine (drink)

HOMOPHONES

who's (who is)			
whose (possessive of who)			
wood (of a tree)			
would (is willing to)			
worst (most bad)			
wurst (sausage)			
yoke (harness)			
yolk (egg center)			
you (pronoun)			
ewe (female sheep)			
you'll (you will)			
yule (Christmas)			
your (possessive pronoun)			
you're (you are)			