All About Homophones

Your Complete Tool Kit!

What’s Inside

* Graphic organizers
* 101 engaging worksheets
* Fun games and challenging activities
* More homophones than you can shake a stick at

Marie Rippel
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INTRODUCTION
Introduction to Homophones

I can still remember the day I first found out about homophones. My second grade teacher had a small collection of books on a low shelf in the back of the classroom. After we were done with our work we could choose a book and bring it back to our desks. One day I discovered a book that had pairs of homophones. It was the first time I realized that such things existed and my pulse quickened. The thrill of such knowledge! I read that book over and over, and to this day I still like these pairs of words!

The fact is, many students find homophones interesting. You can capitalize on this interest and use homophones to teach reading, writing, and vocabulary. Lessons that include homophones provide the perfect opportunity to play with words and have some fun with language.

What are homophones?

Homophones are words that sound alike but are spelled differently. Sets of homophones include billed and build, peace and piece, and sew, so, and sow.

Homophones occur in English because we have multiple ways to spell the same sound. For example:

- The sound of /n/ can be spelled with the letter n or the letter combination kn, resulting in the homophones night and knight.
- The sound of /ā/ can be spelled a-consonant-e or ay (among other possible spellings), giving us daze and days.
- The schwa sound (the muffled /uh/ sound of vowels in unaccented syllables) causes words like complement and compliment to be pronounced alike.

A note about regional accents

Regional accents can affect whether words are homophones or not. A few words are homophones in some areas but not in others. For example, weather and whether are pronounced the same in certain parts of America, but in other regions the wh in whether has retained a distinct /hw/ sound. The words acts and ar sound alike to most of us, but some people pronounce the t in acts.

Speakers in the U.S. pronounce due and do identically, but in most British accents they are pronounced differently. The words boy and buoy have the same pronunciation in England (and therefore are homophones) but not in America.

As you use the activities in this book, you should be the final judge as to whether certain word pairs are homophones in your neck of the woods.
What you’ll find in this tool kit

Graphic Organizers
These organizers provide room for creativity and individual expression as students learn the meanings of new homophones.

Homophone Worksheets
Much more interesting than your average worksheets! These pages provide ideas for creative reinforcement, including activities that will get your students thinking, reading, writing, and speaking. They provide learners an opportunity to practice new skills in order to truly master them.

Crossword Puzzles
Provide your students with extra reinforcement with these homophone puzzles. Clever graphics and riddles add an element of humor.
Card Games
The intellectual stimulation provided by games keeps kids learning and making new connections between words. Instructions and game cards for six quick, motivating games are included.

And More!
Capture the attention of your students with these additional resources:

- Teaching Homophones with Books
- Student Record Sheets for Recording Personal Lists of Homophones
- Tongue Twisters
- Riddles and Puns
- Mega-List of Homophones

Dip into this book often and use the wide variety of activities to enhance your lessons!
Using Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are a great way to teach homophones to children. There are many benefits to using these graphic organizers.

* Graphic organizers help communicate information through charts and diagrams.
* They help sharpen analysis and communication skills.
* Students learn the meaning of the homophone when they fill in the definition.
* Students have the opportunity to practice using the homophones in original sentences.
* There is room for creativity and individual expression, which can help students remember the homophones more easily.
* Organizing information makes it easier for students to grasp the differences between homophones.
* The organizers promote a sense of student ownership of knowledge because they replace teacher-generated sheets with student-generated writing.
* Graphic organizers offer students a hands-on approach to learning new words.

Here are some ideas for using graphic organizers in the classroom:

* Have students fill in their own graphic organizers so that each student’s sheet is unique.
* Students can decorate their work with crayons or colored pencils.
* Completed graphic organizers can be used as a study aid for spelling, reading, and vocabulary.
* Use the organizers as an assessment tool.
* Store the organizers in a classroom binder (like a class book) or keep them in individual student portfolios. Students can punch holes in them and place in a three-ring binder.
* Encourage students to come up with their own sentences using the homophones.
* When teaching a new set of homophones to your students, draw a graphic organizer on the chalkboard or dry erase board. Fill in the different sections as you discuss them with your students.

Following are six graphic organizers that you can copy and use with your students.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Synonyms</th>
<th>Picture</th>
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HOMOPHONE WORKSHEETS

3. Freedom of speech
4. The
5. Patty always stands up
6. Peter and Petra were
7. Ralph refused on
8. Our school
9. The group acted on the
10. Their
good.

Pun Play!
A pun is a humorous play on words that uses multiple meanings. Can you spot the pun in the riddle below?

Q. Why did the girl drop out of school?
A. She didn’t like the principal of it.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: nose or knows.
Suggestions for Using the Worksheets

Worksheets give students targeted practice with the proper use of homophones. Each fill-in-the-blank worksheet in this section features a single set of homophones. Answer keys for the worksheets are located in Appendix A.

For ease in locating the homophone pairs you want to teach, worksheets are arranged in alphabetical order within each suggested grade level section. All homophones are also cross-referenced with page numbers in Appendix C.

At the bottom of each worksheet you will find fun facts, tongue twisters, writing activities, and other nifty features that will help reinforce the homophones learned. In addition, the worksheets offer a jumping-off point for many other creative activities that will get your students thinking, reading, writing, and speaking. Here are a few more ideas you can try:

Vocabulary

* Teach the meanings of the homophones before handing out the worksheet.
* Use the graphic organizers to teach definitions and to list synonyms.
* Have students circle other unfamiliar words in the sentences and look up definitions.

Creative Writing

* Use the worksheets to teach literary devices such as rhyme, simile, alliteration, assonance, and meter.
* Students can use the homophone pairs to create their own tongue twisters, riddles, songs, and poems.
* Have students choose a sentence from the worksheet and use it as a writing prompt for a brief story, poem, or descriptive paragraph. Encourage them to use the targeted homophones and their imaginations.

Reading and Research

* Use the Fun Facts! and Try This! features to encourage further reading and research on a topic suggested in the sentences.

Speaking

* Write the homophone pairs on the board and use the sentences to hold a classroom Homophone Bee.
* Project the worksheets on the wall and call on students individually to provide the correct word.
* Have students recite their original tongue twisters, poems, sentences, and so on.

Art/Drama

* Have students draw pictures of the homophone pairs and label the pictures with the correct words.
* Create a homophones bulletin board with student-generated art and writing.
* Have students act out a homophone for the rest of the class to guess and spell.
* Students can write and perform silly skits using designated homophone pairs.

Reinforcement

* Use the crossword puzzles and games included in this book to review homophones learned.
* Have students write their own fill-in-the-blank sentences and use them to “quiz” their classmates.
How old is the street you live on? One of the oldest paved roads in the world is in Egypt. Built 4,600 years ago, it is about seven miles long and is located near the Great Pyramids of Giza. In Italy, the Aurelia road was built between ancient Rome and Pisa over 2,000 years ago—and is still used today!

---

1. This _________ has twists and turns, so fasten your seatbelt.
2. Ted _________ the roller coaster until he was dizzy.
3. The cowboys _________ their horses to the end of the dirt _________.
4. Sue was lost and didn’t know which _________ to take.
5. Alex _________ his bike in the parade.
6. The Roman soldiers _________ on the old stone _________ until the break of dawn.
7. I _________ an elephant at the circus last week!
8. The tribe _________ their camels across the desert.
9. The scarecrow danced down the Yellow Brick _________.
10. There’s a moose in the middle of the _________!

---

Fun Facts!

How old is the street you live on? One of the oldest paved roads in the world is in Egypt. Built 4,600 years ago, it is about seven miles long and is located near the Great Pyramids of Giza. In Italy, the Aurelia road was built between ancient Rome and Pisa over 2,000 years ago—and is still used today!
Fill in the blanks with the correct word: sale or sail.

1. If there is a ____________ on worms, would you buy me fourteen of them?
2. We are ready to ____________ as soon as the storm stops.
3. My mom made cupcakes for the bake ____________ .
4. We bought this ____________ on ____________, but it’s full of holes.
5. Why does she always ____________ into class five minutes late?
6. Every video game in the store was on ____________ today.
7. We heard the crack of the bat and watched the ball ____________ through the air.
8. Let’s ____________ around the island and go to the seashell ____________ on the other side.
9. The pirates planned to ____________ away in the dead of night.
10. They heard there was a ____________ on eye patches and didn’t want to miss it.

Silly Sentences!

Make up your own silly sentences using the homophones sale and sail. Try to start most of the words with the letter s.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
A pun is a humorous play on words that uses homophones or words with multiple meanings. Can you figure out the pun in the riddle below?

Q. Why was the pail pale?
A. It wasn’t a well bucket.

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: pale or pail.

1. Wild rabbits hopped in the __________ light of dawn.

2. He dragged that heavy __________ of rocks for three miles.

3. Why did Peter put his peppers in a __________?

4. Sue turned __________ when she saw that her __________ was empty.

5. They crept along the wooded path, lit only by a __________ moon.

6. She looked like a rosebud in her __________ pink dress.

7. Alan poured a whole __________ of berries on his pancakes.

8. Bobby asked me to fill this __________ with __________ green bugs.

9. Jill woke from her nightmare, __________ with fear.

Hollywood may be the movie capital of the world, but lots of other American cities claim to be the “capital of the world” for something, too. Take a look at these:

• Bandera, Texas – Cowboy Capital of the World
• Kennett Square, Pennsylvania – Mushroom Capital of the World
• Sheboygan, Wisconsin – Bratwurst Capital of the World
• Parke County, Indiana – Covered Bridge Capital of the World
• Coconut Creek, Florida – Butterfly Capital of the World
• Beaver, Oklahoma – Cow Chip Throwing Capital of the World

Fun Facts!

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: capital or capitol.

1. Katy kept quiet about her secret location in the __________ city.
2. With a whoosh of his cape, Superman flew to the top of the __________.
3. Use a __________ letter when you write about the __________ building.
4. “What a __________ idea!” bellowed the jolly old soul.
5. Eagle River, Wisconsin claims to be the “snowmobile __________ of the world.”
6. She whispered the code word and the doors to the __________ swung open.
7. Was it a __________ offense to eat corn on the cob on the steps of the state __________?
8. She baked a cake in the shape of the __________ building for the lawyer’s birthday.
9. Why did the senator crawl into the __________ on his hands and knees?
10. The cackling cats in their camel coats committed a __________ error.
CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Active Insects

Word Bank
- Use one word for advertisement.
- Two by for a good book.
- Heard in a garden.
- A good book.
- Have eyes.
- A fact or opinion.
- Four.
- In a garden.
- A word for advertisement.
- The greenest garden.
- Riddle: What do you call an active insect?
- A bug.
Two Pears

Across

3 way up in the air
5 the color of the sky
6 one penny
9 Jim ____ a horse yesterday.
10 I ____ her name.

Down

1 what you say when you greet someone
2 I can’t believe he ate the ____ pizza!
3 an opening or gap where something is missing
4 She ____ a letter to her pen pal.
5 The big bad wolf ____ the house down.
7 opposite of old
8 what you drive a car on

Word Bank

road blew cent hi new hole
whole blue knew rode high sent

Riddle:
What do you call two pears?
pear pair
153

1 painful or tender to the touch
2 letters and packages that you send or receive
3 simple; not fancy
4 a device that allows you to slow down or stop a car or bicycle
5 a white powder made of wheat that is used in baking
6 the time of day when the moon is out
7 to fly or glide high in the sky

1 what humans fly in
2 to give someone something to use for a short period of time
3 the colorful blossom of a plant
4 single; only one
5 opposite of female
6 to smash or cause something to separate into pieces
7 a noble soldier who rides a horse and wears armor

Word Bank

- night
- brake
- flour
- break
- plain
- soar
- loan
- mail
- lone
- male
- plane
- flower
- sore
- knight

Riddle:
What do you say to a soldier in shining armor when he goes to bed?

Night-night, Knight!
HOMOPHONE CARD GAMES
Snap!

You will need:
Word Cards for 26 sets of homophones.

Number of players:
2–6

Objective:
To win all of the cards.

How to play:
Shuffle the cards well and deal them all out, face down and one at a time, to each player. The cards do not need to come out even.

Each player puts his cards face down in a pile in front of him. The player on the dealer’s left turns up his top card and begins a face-up pile next to his face-down pile. The next player does the same, and so on around the table.

Snap!
When someone turns up a card that forms a homophone pair with a card already face up on another player’s pile, the first person to notice the two matched cards (ant/aunt, there/their, gait/gate, and so on) calls out “Snap!” and wins both piles. The player adds the cards to the bottom of his face-down pile.

If two players shout “Snap!” at the same time, the two piles are combined and placed face up in the middle of the table to form a “Snap Pot.” Play continues where it left off with the player to the left of the last player who turned over a card.

If a player sees a card that forms a homophone pair with the card on top of the Snap Pot, he shouts “Snap Pot!” and wins all of those cards.

If a player runs out of cards in his face-down pile during the game, he turns his face-up cards down and continues to play. The game ends when one player has won all of the cards.

Who won?
The player with all the cards.
MORE TEACHING TOOLS
Teaching Homophones with Books

Here is a listing of books that can be read to or by children.


This is a fun book to use to introduce the concept of homophones. Illustrated in watercolors, the story is told through a letter from Aunt Ant, who has just moved to the zoo, to her friend Deer. She uses many pairs of homophones in her letter as she shares information about the zoo residents: “The giraffe’s long neck lets him CHOOSE what he CHEWS.”

Homophones used in this book include hear/here, you/ewe, daze/days, horse/hoarse, feat/feet, and twenty-seven other pairs.


Lots of silliness going on here! Fun rhyme and rhythm come together in sentences such as, “A maid could be made to be very afraid if she heard a big herd on the deck.” A good read-aloud.


A little girl recounts the things she overhears her parents talking about. Illustrations show what she imagines: an under toe at the beach, the story of the tortoise and the hair, and lions praying on animals. Some of the pages feature puns that children may not understand and that would need to be explained. Select pages could be shown to students to illustrate the homophone pairs moose/mousse, gorilla/guerilla, pray/prey, hangar/hanger, toe/tow, skull/scull, claws/Claus, and hair/hare.


Hobbs started collecting homophones twenty-five years ago and never stopped. This compilation includes over 9,000 homophones plus short definitions. Good reference, plus it offers a challenge: the author will pay $1 per homophone that is not listed in this volume.


Rhythmic verse makes this a fun read-aloud. Buz, a young boy, learns about word pairs like plane/plain, sun/son, and Buz/buzz while talking with his mother.
My List of Homophones

Name: ________________________________

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____________________________________

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Tongue Twisters

Everybody loves tongue twisters! All of the twisters in this section contain at least one homophone and are marked Easy, Moderate, or Difficult. To aid you in quickly finding a twister to use in a particular lesson, the homophones used are listed below each tongue twister.

Photocopy the tongue twisters you want to share with your students and try some of these activities:
* Have students underline all the homophones they find, then discuss the words in class.
* Practice enunciation.
* Put the strips in a bag and have each student pull out a twister and recite it.
* Have students choose a set of homophones and write their own tongue twisters.
* Have a contest to see who can say the twisters the fastest!

Homophones used in this tongue twister: bee

--- Easy ---

Busy buzzing bumble bee.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: bee

--- Easy ---

If you want to buy, buy.
If you don’t want to buy, bye–bye!

Homophones used in this tongue twister: buy, bye, to, want, you

--- Easy ---

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear,
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair,
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn’t very fuzzy, was he?

Homophones used in this tongue twister: bear, hair, no, very

--- Easy ---

No nose knows like a gnome’s nose knows.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: gnome, knows, no, nose

--- Easy ---

The thin thief slid through that thicket over there.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: the, there, through
Difficult

Bill will break Blake’s black bike’s back brake.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: brake, break

Difficult

We’ll reel in the real rear wheel.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: in, real, reel, the, we’ll, wheel

Difficult

I saw Esau sitting on a seesaw. I saw Esau; he saw me.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: I

Difficult

Choose cool clothes, Cheryl.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: choose, clothes

Difficult

Betty Botter bought some butter, “But,” said she, “the butter’s bitter.
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter.
But a bit of better butter will make my bitter batter better.”
So she bought some better butter, better than the bitter butter,
put it in her bitter batter, made her bitter batter better.
So ‘twas better Betty Botter bought some better butter.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: but, I, in, made, so, some, the

Difficult

The sixth sick sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: sheik, the
(Note that this is often cited as the hardest tongue twister in English!)
APPENDICES
Appendix B: Crossword Puzzle Answer Keys

Note: Answer keys are arranged alphabetically.

A Bargain

Active Insects

American Idol

An Interesting Wedding

A Scary Story
Appendix C: Homophones Used in Activities

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Appendix D: Mega-List of Homophones

As you look through this homophones list, keep in mind that some words may be homophones only in certain areas. For example, merry and Mary sound alike in many regions, but not in others. If you disagree with a homophone set, feel free to ignore it. It may not be a homophone in your area, but it is somewhere else!

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<th>Abel/able</th>
<th>ariel/arial</th>
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Put some fun in your language arts lessons!

This book makes homophones
* fun to learn
* easy to understand, and
* painless to put into practice.

All About Homophones helps you teach with ease. Clarify homophones for your students with this complete teaching tool kit!

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- Crossword Puzzles
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