ULTIMATE HOMOPHONES

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What do these twenty words have in common?
- aisle, knit, scent, wretch
- hour, knot, whole, wright
- knap, knickers, llama, wrap
- knave, knight, psalter, wrest

If the first letter of each word is removed (those who play word games call this process a beheadment), what remains is a homophone of the original word.

What do these twenty words have in common?
- bear, ore, ruse, tale
- break, hide, pare, seer
tear
- reed, hose, pride, steak
tide
- gale, meet, rude, steel
wear

The letters of each word can be rearranged (anagrammed) to make another word that is a homophone of the original word.

Now take a look at another list of twenty words, and decide what the cluster has in common homophonically. This time, the answers reside in Answers and Solutions.

What do you call

a) a naked grizzly? A bare bear.
b) a hoarse grizzly? A bare bear.

Hears a roar:

- a roar:
  - bear
  - roar
  - hear

A spelling pair:

- bear
  - bare
- roar
  - hoarse

- hear
  - hear
- roar
  - hear
do you call a raspy-throated equine? A hoarse horse. Bare-bear
and hoarse-horse are among the hundreds of same-sound-different-
spelling pairs in the English vocabulary.

Hears a rye peace eye maid up inn my idol thyme. Aye rote
it four yew two sea Howe homophones Cannes seam sew whiled from
there knows down too they're tows. With pried, eye no it will
knot boar ewe. Its meant two bee red allowed:

One night a knight on a hoarse horse
Rode out upon a road.
This male wore mail for war and would
Explore a wood that glowed.

His tale I'll tell from head to tail.
I'll write his rite up right.
A hidden site our hero found,
A sight that I shall cite.

With woe he shouted "Whoa!" as rain
Without a break did reign.
To brake, he pulled the rein, and like
A shattered pane, felt pain.

The poor knight met a witch, which made
Sweat pour from every pore.
He'd never seen a scene like that.
His sore heart couldn't soar.

Then they a game for truffles played,
In which he mined her mind.
To prove who was the better bettor
And find who should be fined.

He won one twice; he won two, too.
To grate on her felt great.
To wrest the rest, he went for four,
And, at the fore, ate eight.

Due to her loss, the mourning witch,
'Midst morning mist and dew,
Her truffles missed. I know no way,
Do I, to weight her rue.

The razed field raised our brave knight's fear
As a swarm of cared fleas flies.
He heard a herd of dear deer pray
The pleas of prey: "Please, please."

A grisly grizzly bear, all bare,
And a hare that had no hair
And a foul fowl bawled that they were bald.
In their pink skins they stood there.

The knight did see a blue whale wail
As it blew out plumes of sea.
"Yoo hoo, you who come riding here,
Please hear and pity me."
Our knight began to reel for real.
The world whirled, so to speak.
All the days of the week his sole soul felt
The dizzy daze of the weak.
Our heir to knighthood gave it up.
He felt the fare not fair.
His wholly holy sword soared up
As he threw it through the air.

The bell has tolled, I'm told. The hour
To end our tale draws nigh.
Without ado, I bid adieu,
So, by your leave, bye-bye.

The foregoing was excerpted from my book The Miracle of Language

How many triple homophones can you think of? It shouldn't be
too difficult to capture two or three like the trio lurking in this
sentence. Or the one embedded in the joke "Have you heard about
the successful perfume manufacturer? His business made a lot of
sense (scents, cents)."

In the list below, we came up with 88 tight triads (two begin­
ning with three different letters) and 14 fabulous foursomes (two
beginning with three different letters). Notes on the diatonic scale
(do, re, mi, etc.) have been permitted, but no proper nouns,
foreign words, regional pronunciations, archaisms, or letters of
the alphabet are allowed (we say aloud). Have we missed some?

adds, ads, adz
aisle, l'll, isle
ait, ate, eight
bald, balled, bawled
beau, bo, bow
bight, bite, byte
bird, burd, burred
bole, boll, bowl
born, borne, bourn
braise, brays, braze
burro, borough, burrow
bused, bussed, bust
say, key, quay
censer, censor, sensor
cent, scent, sent
cinque, sink, sync
cite, sight, site
chord, cord, cored
clamber, clammer, clamor
crews, cruise, cruse
dew, do, due
do, doe, dough
does, doughs, doze
earn, erne, urn
ever, yew, you

ewes, use, yews
fane, fain, felgn
fays, faze, phase
firs, furs, furze
flew, flue, flue
for, fore, four
fraise, frays, phrase
frees, freeze, frieze
gld, gilled, guild
gnu, knew, new
gored, gourd, gourde
heal, heel, he'll
hoard, horde, whored
holey, holy, wholly
idle, idol, idyll
knap, nap, nappe
knead, kneed, need
knows, no's, nose
lacks, lacs, lax
lay, lea, lei
load, lode, lowed
lochs, locks, lox
mean, mesne, mien
meat, meet, mete
lea, lee, it

N IS FOR
This is eight to nine for $10.
Chappaquiddick contains Gorey.
Hector in print is prill.
How thin the jenges of logos.
N IS FOR NEWSLETTER

This is the title of a new logological monthly, containing eight to ten pages of articles relating to alphabetic wordplay, for $10 per six issues (Nyr Indictor, editor, PO Box 465, Chappaqua NY 10514). The June 1993 issue (Vol. 1, No. 1) contains an article on the alphabetic wordplay of Edward Gorey ("G is for George smothered under a rug, H is for Hector done in by a thug...") and a rundown of ABC books in print (including a taxonomy of the five basic forms they take); the July 1993 issue surveys "The Vexing 'X'" and how this letter is handled by different authors. Reader challenges are also issued: the June challenge was to create an alphabet of words beginning and ending with the same letter, from AbyssiniA to ZizZ (J is the hardest; see Jubal in Dan Tilque's November 1992 Word Ways article). Can sufficient material be found in this highly-specialized branch of logology to keep a journal afloat? Stay tuned.