

THE INTRICACIES OF HOMOPHONES

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Homophones are words which have the same pronunciation but different spellings and meanings.

Homophones differ in a variety of ways. They may...

1. have the same number of letters:

(a) same letters = transposals

(b) one letter different:

(i) a vowel replaced by a different vowel

(ii) a vowel replaced by a Y

(iii) a vowel replaced by a consonant

(iv) a consonant replaced by a consonant such as prize and prise – these are not considered here

2. have a different number of letters:

(a) by losing a single letter

(b) by replacing a single letter, or a group of letters, with a different length group of letters.

1. SAME NUMBER OF LETTERS

(a) TRANSPOSALS

In these the last 2 letters swap places:

DE - ED HIDE - HIED MEDE - MEED PRIDE - PRIED RUDE - RUED TIDE - TIED
KE - EK PEEK - PEKE
EL - LE ABEL - ABLE GAEL - GALE
ER - RE DIER - DIRE METER - METRE SEER - SERE SHIER - SHIRE VEER - VERE
ES - SE HOES - HOSE NOES - NOSE POES (more than one person named POE) - POSE
PRIES - PRISE ROES - ROSE

In these, the last 2 letters do not swap places:

BARE - BEAR BREAK - BRAKE GREAT - GRATE STAKE - STEAK WARE - WEAR

(b) ONE LETTER DIFFERENT

(i) A VOWEL REPLACED BY A DIFFERENT VOWEL

A replaced by E

In these, the A is replaced by the 2nd E of a doubled EE:

BE <u>A</u> CH - BEE <u>E</u> CH	BRE <u>A</u> CH - BREE <u>E</u> CH	BE <u>A</u> N - BEE <u>E</u> N	BE <u>A</u> T - BEE <u>E</u> T
CHE <u>A</u> P - CHEE <u>E</u> P	CRE <u>A</u> K - CREE <u>E</u> K	DE <u>A</u> R - DEE <u>E</u> R	FE <u>A</u> T - FEE <u>E</u> T
FLE <u>A</u> - FLEE <u>E</u>	HE <u>A</u> L - HEE <u>E</u> L	LE <u>A</u> CH - LEE <u>E</u> CH	LE <u>A</u> K - LEE <u>E</u> K
LE <u>A</u> R - LEE <u>E</u> R	ME <u>A</u> T - MEE <u>E</u> T	PE <u>A</u> - PEE <u>E</u>	PE <u>A</u> K - PEE <u>E</u> K

PEAL - PEEL
SEAS - SEES
TEAM - TEEM

READ - REED
SHEAR - SHEER
TEAS - TEES

SEA - SEE
STEAL - STEEL
WEAK - WEEK

SEAM - SEEM
TEA - TEE

In these, the A is replaced by an E which is not part of a doubled EE:

AYE - EYE
FAINT - FEINT
PRAY - PREY
SUMMARY - SUMMERY

CURRANT - CURRENT
FATE - FETE
RAIN - REIN
TOAD - TOED

DRAY - DREY
LAY - LEY
STATIONARY - STATIONERY
VAIL - VEIL

DUAL - DUEL
NAVAL - NAVEL
STATIONERY
VAIN - VEIN

A replaced by O
SWAB - SWOB

AUGHT - OUGHT
SWAT - SWOT

BOAR - BOOR
WARN - WORN

BROACH - BROOCH
WRATH - WROTH

A replaced by U

COARSE - COURSE

E replaced by I
COUNSEL - COUNCIL
TAXES / TAXIS

ANE / ANI
FRANCES / FRANCIS

BEER - BIER
FREEZE - FRIEZE

BERTH - BIRTH
PEER - PIER

E replaced by O
SHOE - SHOO

CENSER - CENSOR

LESSEEN - LESSON

SEEW - SOW

E replaced by U

TERN - TURN

I replaced by O

WHIRL - WHORL

I replaced by U

FIR - FUR

O replaced by U

SON - SUN

TON - TUN

(ii) A VOWEL REPLACED BY Y

E replaced by Y EERIE / EYRIE

I replaced by Y DIER - DYER DINE - DYNE DRIER - DYER PRIOR - PYOR
RIDE - RYDE TIRE - TYRE

(iii) A VOWEL REPLACED BY A CONSONANT

A replaced BAA - BAR GROAN - GROWN MOAN - MOWN

E replaced ROLE - ROLL ROES - ROWS SLOE - SLOW THROES - THROWS
TOE - TOW

I replaced STUDIED - STUDED

O replaced TOO - TWO

U replaced CAUL - CALL GAUL - GALL MAUL - MALL PAUL - PALL
DOUSE - DOWSE FOUL - FOWL

2. A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF LETTERS

(a) LOSE A SINGLE LETTER

AISLE - A = ISLE BOARDER - A = BORDER BREAD - A = BRED HEARD - A = HERD
HOARSE - A = HORSE LEAD - A = LED LEANT - A = LENT OAR - A = OR HOBBS - B = HOBS
JAMB - B = JAM PLUMB - B = PLUM SCENT - C = SENT LADD - D = LAD BEE - E = BE
BYE - E = BY CASHE - E = CASH CASTE - E = CAST CORED - E = CORD DIE - E = DI
FINED - E = FIND FLOE - E = FLO FLUE - E = FLU FORE - E = FOR GREATER - E = GRATER
HEART - E = HART HEROINE - E = HEROIN HIE - E = HI HOE - E = HO HOLED - E = HOLD
KAYE - E = KAY LORE - E = LOR MAINE - E = MAIN MINED - E = MIND MOOED - E = MOOD
NORE - E = NOR ORE - E = OR PEASE - E = PEAS PLEASE - E = PLEAS PROSE - E = PROS
SLEIGHT - E = SLIGHT SOLED - E = SOLD STYE - E = STY TAXIES - E = TAXIS
TEASE - E = TEAS TORE - E = TOR WEE - E = WE GRAFF - F = GRAF (both surnames)
GNAT - G = NAT REIGN - G = REIN CHORD - H = CORD PAH - H = PA SOH - H = SO
WHALES - H = WALES WHEN - H = WEN WHET - H = WET WHETHER - H = WETHER
WHIG - H = WIG WHILE - H = WILE WHINE - H = WINE WHIT - H = WIT WHITHER - H = WITHER
BANDIED - I = BANDED CANDIED - I = CANDED DAILY - I = DALY(s.name) MAIZE - I = MAZE
PLAICE - I = PLACE POSIES - I = POSES TAXIES - I = TAXES TIDIED - I = TIDED WAIVE - I = WAVE
J... BLOCK - K = BLOC KNAVE - K = NAVE KNELL - K = NELL KNEW - K = NEW
KNIGHT - K = NIGHT KNIT - K = NIT KNOT - K = NOT KNUT - K = NUT PICKS - K = PICS
SACK - K = SAC SICK - K = SIC SPECKS - K = SPECS TICK - K = TIC HOLMES - L = HOMES
MARSHALL - L = MARSHAL COMMON - M = COMON (surname) CANNON - N = CANON (s name)
DAMN - N = DAM FINNISH - N = FINISH INN - N = IN NUNN (surname) - N = NUN
CALLOUS - O = CALLUS KIPPS - P = KIPS Q... BARR (surname) - R = BAR ERR - R = ER
FARTHER - R = FATHER IRON - R = ION MAR - R = MA TAR - R = TA DOSS - S = DOS
LOSS - S = LOS BUTT - T = BUT MATT - T = MAT SETT - T = SET BOULDER - U = BOLDER
BUOY - U = BOY BUY - U = BY FOUR - U = FOR GAUGE - U = GAGE GUILD - U = GILD
GUILT - U = GILT MOURN - U = MORN RIGOUR - U = RIGOR V.... FLOW - W = FLO
LOW - W = LO MOW - W = MO SOW - W = SO WHOLE - W = HOLE WRACK - W = RACK
WRAP - W = RAP WRAPPED - W = RAPPED WREST - W = REST WRING - W = RING
WRITE - W = RITE WROTE - W = ROTE WRUNG - W = RUNG X... Y... Z...

Rarely, a set of 3 homophones can be obtained by losing 1 letter after another:

PARR - R = PAR - R = PA BOURNE - U = BORNE - E = BORN

(b) REPLACING LETTERS

Some homophones are formed when 1 or more letters are replaced in a word:

replaced

by **2 letters replaced by 1 letter**

<u>A</u>	MANNER - MANNA	TUBER - TUBA	WHERE - WARE	ROTOR - ROTA
	LOWED - LOAD	ROWED - ROAD	TOWED - TOAD	
<u>E</u>	BEE - BE			
<u>I</u>	STAYED - STAID	RHYME - RIME	THYME - TIME	
<u>O</u>	BRITAIN - BRITON	AURAL - ORAL	RIGGER - RIGOR	
<u>S</u>	BOOZE - BOOS	FREEZE - FREES	FURZE - FURS	
<u>T</u>	BUSED - BUST	LEASED - LEAST		
<u>U</u>	PEARL - PURL	BERRY - BURY	CREWEL - CRUEL	FLEW - FLU MEW - MU
<u>Y</u>	CHILLIE - CHILLY			
<u>Z</u>	RAISE - RAZE			

by *2 letters replaced by 2 letters*

EW DUE - DEW YOU - YEW
ZE CRAYS - CRAZE DAYS - DAZE LAYS - LAZE RAYS - RAZE

by *2 letters replaced by 3 letters*

E -- BOW - BEAU ISLET - EYELET
I -- LOO - LIEU REVUE - REVIEW GUYS - GUISE
O -- SHAW - SHORE
Q -- KEY - QUAY
U -- HEW - HUGH PEW - PUGH

by *2 letters replaced by 4 letters*

I --- STYX - STICKS
O --- THREW - THROUGH

by *3 letters replaced by 1 letter*

A LEIGH - LEA
C QUEUE - CUE
K SACQUE - SACK
T DUCKED - DUCT PACKED - PACT PICKED - PICT
X FLECKS - FLEX LACKS - LAX PACKS - PAX RECKS - REX SICKS - SIX
TACKS - TAX TRECKS - TREX

by *3 letters replaced by 3 letters*

A -- GREYS - GRAZE

by *3 letters replaced by 4 letters*

A --- PREYS - PRAISE
C --- KERNEL - COLONEL
U --- FIRS - FURZE

by *3 letters replaced by 5 letters*

O ---- TALK - TORQUE