HOMOPHONES OR ‘PUNS’

ANIL
Perth, Australia

Homophones are the sound-alike variety of homonyms. They are usually meaningless (flew, flu; blew, blue). It’s fascinating when the two words are related in some way, thus constituting a pun. Here I present four classes: 1) ca. synonyms; 2) ca. antonyms; 3) other puns and jokes; 4) multiples (types 1, 2 or 3). These are the best of a long time collection. Words are unrelated etymologically; I exclude pairs with common roots as trivial except when sharing only part of their words. I minimised cases that aren’t exact sound-likes, allowing some exceptions if good enuf. Some depend on accents, e.g., Brit-er’s sounded as schwas.

These were mostly noted during my search for definitive anagrams (DA), and several of these are anagrams in my DA articles. That study is mired down in S, hence few SI-Z entries here.

1. ~SYNONYMS

anatomy ‘in’ at a me
appease up-case (pun: raise the spirits or wealth of, plus comply and relax the demands of a higher up)
appendicitis ‘upend’ inside us
appendix app: index (not always, but an index is the most common appendix ‘app’)
a praised upraised

arise arc ayes (head-count voting)
a rout Are out.
arsenal ‘arson’ hall

a scout ask out
assert as cert!
atlas ‘at’ list
aversion ever shun
bald ‘balled’ (ball head)
Ironically, tho not related etymologically, bald was spelt ‘balled’ in ME. A medieval pun, I’d like to believe.
bloated blew it (up)
borough burrow (group residences) These are unexpectedly related words, or strange bedfellows.
climax Climb... ax!
combined come, bind
Commissar Commie tsar
conscience Con shuns.
ejects each ex
emergency Am urgency!
entail in tale
excel XL

Existence Egg’s extents (the Cosmic Egg, or the Universe and anything else that exists)
expedite x speed—hie it!
expense ex-pence
extreme ex-stream (out of the mainstream)
forestries for His trees
gyno- Guy? No.
hey? eh? (a questioning palindrome)
hirsute hair suit
if floor if lower (verbs)
include in, clued
indoctrination En-dog-train Nation.
intellec cities into lex (Intellect is related to lex, Greek for words, but apparently not to lex, Latin for law. Both are intellectual pursuits.)
interesting inner rest sting (whipping up attention, spurring one out of calm indifference)

interrupt enter upped

intuit ‘into’ it

marriage merge (a siur!)
masticate Mess took, ate.

Ménière's disease mean ears-dizzies

obsolescence ‘hopped’, so less since

ostracism “Oust!”-racism
(Race is a metaphor for any out-group.)

overthrown Over, Throne!

parallels pair all /’s. (///)

parody parroty (a ‘sort of’ copy)

philanthropies Fill, and throw peas.
(Get rich then share tiny portions.)

precious ‘priceous’ (nonce anagram)

purchase Perch us. (a stable grip or foothold)

reign rein (Rulers hold the reins, but can’t rein rain!)

repugnance reap ugh!-ness

respite rest pit

revise re-vies

a rout Are out.

rowers re oars

scrap ‘S crap.

scene seen

seel seal
(seel = to ‘seal’ or sew eyelids together)

shriek sheer ‘Eek!’

sycophancy Sicko fan see.

too two

wail “Oooh!” ail

Wonderland wand-o’er land

wretched ratshit

Zea mays See a maize. (a corny definition)

2. ~ANTONYMS

a mod Am odd.

amigo am ego

apple up pull (Notwen discovers antigravity! Contrast same pun in part 3.)

askew as cue

attention a tense-shun

aural oral (perfect partners!)

availed have failed

belonging Be longing.

“bit chilly” Bitch illy. (opposites in degree)

bomb balm

chilly chilli/chili

commotion calm ocean

conquer concur
(This is an antonym forced into being a synonym.)

decide de-side
Don’t join either side. (But that’s still a decision.)

egalitarian ego lit Aryan

flag wave Flag, waive.

Glad to see you’re back. Glad to see your back! (from WW 04-79, Few Say So)
heartily  hardly
hybrid  high-bred
more  'M o’er.  (antonym, am finished, no more;
or synonym, over and above the original amount)
mystifying  mist-defying
O-n-e!  Oh, any.
persevere  Pursue? Veer!
pure  “pec!”-er  (ant.: clean vs. stinky; or syn.:  
pure scraping  to bate (leather) in dog shit <L. clean!)
raze  raise
right angle  wry tangle
rode  rowed
trade  to raid
wholly  holey

aspersions  “Ass Persians!”  (Trump, et al.)
assail  ass-ail
attaching  at hatching  (imprinting, eg in ducks)
audacious  Awed, eh? Shush!
Aware  Awe wear.  (Enlightenment)
awry  (Or I?)
bar fad  barf ad
cache  cash  (mattress stuff)
capitalism  “Kaput all!” is 'em.  
(Greed conquers all in our sheep-eat-sheep world.)
clothes minded  (a narrow interest in fashion only)
collide-o-scope  (a cyclotron > fancy patterns)
dame  “d’ aim”  (hetero male and lesbian view)
Dive urge.  “Diverge!”  
(a bridge suicide and an interventionist’s plea)
ecstatic  ex-static  
(“My soul’s so happy that I can’t sit down.”)
Eiffel Tower site  eyeful t’ our sight
enemy  Inner me?
exegesis  exit Jesus  (‘modernist’ Bible scholarship)
a fire  if ire
floe  flow
Forever endaveour!  (amen)
furniture  fur-nit chewer  (cat’s definition)
geriatric  “cheery hat trick!”  
(growing old happily, triply magic!)
Home and Away  Hormone a way! (Oz TV series mostly about young people and their hormones)

humerus “humorous?”
(The funny bone is part of the humerus.)

impregnation him per “egg nation”
(He gets the egg dividing and multiplying.)

idolatry a dollar tree

ingrown toenail In groan-tone ail.

lackeys lack ease (not free, ‘bonded’)

laissez faire lazy fare (pun: both are do-nothings)

libel (liable!)

“line” (lyin’!) (ad line, Party line, pick-up line)

melancholy melon/collie (Lassie’s love for Jack O’Lantern was unrequited. Jack just sat there with a stupid grin on his face.) Pumpkin & melons are gourds.

millet  Mill it.

miniskirt Many’s curt.

Minister Many stir.
(But it seems that most of them would rather sleep.)

morning mourning (mourning after night before)

mortar fire mortifier

nonagenarian nonage a-naryin’ (“I deny all claims that I’m underage,” said the ninety-something.)

nuisance new cents (Damn decimal change!)

pertinacious Puritan, eh? Shush!
(stubbornly righteous)

philosophise “Fill ossifies.”

phloem flow ’em (It ‘flows’ the sap and sugars down the plant from the leaves.)

placenta place enter (where mother enters fetus)

politics Poly-tricks!

propaganda “proper gander” (It says.)

raucous raw cuss

relax “Real” axe.
(Cool it, get unreal!

revolution ‘Reb illusion!’ (reactionary reaction)

road bed Rode bad?
(where roads + many bad or sleepy drivers go to ‘rest’)

sacrilegious sack religious
(worshipping the bed on Sunday morning)

sarcasm sour chasm

seminary “Semen? Nary!”
(where one learns the celibacy rule of priesthood)

senior seen yore

SF as if (science fiction)

smart “some art!”

State Government Stay gum men!
(Strine pronunciation; gum tree men—except they’re not, with little interest in gum tree preservation.)

surrender “Sir!” ender

surreptitious syruper issues
(hiding the truth behind sweet-talking euphemisms)

Tortoise “taught” us
(Aesop via Lewis Carroll)

upmarket Up-mark it.

vify “Villain—fie!”

Watch it! “What?” (…”Shit!”)

And if you don’t like my puns,
You ask it, you ass fart!

4. MULTIPLES, all types
[a]=antonyms

A noise—an “Oyez!”—annoys.

ascetic acidic acetic aesthetic
(Words 2 and 3 are related.)

aside as hide a sighed aside
(First aside is an adverb, second a noun.)

“astute!” as toot “as tute” (self-praise)

bastard bad-stirred ‘bass turd’

censor sin seer, ‘sincere since hear sins here’
(e.g., confessional)

co-incomes Coin comes; coin comes.

commends Come-ins!

= endorsement ‘In’ door’s meant.

consummating
Cons “a mating”—con summiting.

diarrhea dire rear (derrière)

disgust ’Tis cussed! (Discussed?)
embarrassed I’m bare assed.

evanescence even as sense heaven essence

existence acts’ extents
(Acts is tense!) (It isn’t easy being a Being.)

faults false falls (1 and 2 are related.)

fillip ‘fill up’—feel ‘up’

flight full height, feel light

Illinois 1. ill annoy; 2. ill-annoy
(1 Peeve the sick and poorly. 2 Fail to peeve anyone.)

industries In ‘dust trees’ end us trees.

innocence ‘in know’ since in, know sense [a]
I see. Icy eyes ee. (see = eye [vb,n.], Scot.)

mystical ‘Myth’s tickle’ (Mis-tickle?)

optimistic Opt a mystic. Hopped a mis-tick?

officious offish us, oft vicious

pacifist 1. Passivest patsy fist! 2. Pass a fist!
(1. warmongers’ definition; 2. pacifist’s definition)

persuade peer-swayed (Purse-swayed?)

philosopher ‘Fill us off Her full awes offer.’
(‘Her’ is the muse of philosophy.)

punch line punnish line (punish line?)

psi’s size-sighs (Size isn’t everything!)

qualified ‘Coup’ all I’ve eyed, Co. wall I fled.
Coup is a nonce verb, conquer. The company wall is
the job requirements, easy enuf that I mocked them.

rejects reach ex
(Rejections reach X shuns.)

retail re tale retell

robber baron Rob her barren, raw Barbarian!

rode ‘Rowed’ road.

senile scene I’ll see n’ I’ll see Nile, sea ’n isle.

sophistry = softest tree; artistry = hardest
  tree (...to climb.)

squeamish squirmish-screamish

surveillance Serve ‘veil lens’. (Serve aliens?)

theism “Thee”-ism (Theist “Thee” yessed.)

treats t’ her: eats, ‘true’ eats!

“We wee wee-wee.” My child’s first full sentence.
Note the use of We, not I—it does Papa proud.

“Why not?” Why knot? Whine not!

Wonderland Wand-o’er, lend one dear land.