HOMOPHONIC VARIATIONS

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorpeds@hotmail.com

Homophones are words which sound the same but which have different spellings and different meanings (CHEAP and CHEEP etc.).

The two pairs of 2-word configurations below fall into one of three categories:
1. the 2 pairs share a like word… KNEAD BREAD – NEED BREAD
2. the 2 pairs do NOT share a like word… ATE ROES – EIGHT ROWS
3. the 2 pairs share a like word; the other words are transposals… TIDE ROSE - TIED ROSE

1. THE TWO PAIRS SHARE A LIKE WORD

EIGHT ALL (game score) - ATE ALL
ALL HOURS – ALL OURS
GORILLA ATTACKS – GUERILLA ATTACKS
BIRD FLEW – BIRD FLU
BOAT SAILS – BOAT SALES
BONE IDLE – BONE IDOL
READ (past tense) BOOK - RED BOOK (Mao)
HANSOM CAB – HANDSOME CAB
CLEVER GUISE – CLEVER GUYS
CUFF LINKS – CUFF LYNX (for misbehaving)
SORT DATA – SOUGHT DATA
WRITE DOWN – RIGHT DOWN (temperature)
EIDER DUCKS - IDA DUCKS
FRESH AIR - FRESH HEIR
GREEN TEE (golf) – GREEN TEA
STORK GROWS – STALK GROWS
HEAD BAND - HEAD (of school) BANNED
HEAL INJURY – HEEL INJURY
LONG QUEUE – LONG CUE (billiard)
LONG WAIT – LONG WEIGHT (pendulum in a grandfather clock)
LONG TALE - LONG TAIL
LONG REIGN – LONG REIN
LOST SOUL – LOST SOLE (of shoe)
LOW BOUGHS (of tree) – LOW BOW (to Royalty)
MADE WAY – MADE WHEY
COARSE MATERIAL – COURSE MATERIAL
MILKY WAY – MILKY WHEY
FIND MONEY – FINED MONEY
ROUGH NECKS – RUFF NECKS
TURNS NEST – TERN’S NEST
NOEL COWARD – NOEL COWERED
GUEST NUMBERS – GUESSED NUMBERS
ROLLS OVER - ROLE’S OVER (end of play’s run)
BRIDAL PATH (to altar) – BRIDLE PATH
PERFECT SITE - PERFECT SIGHT
PLANT CEDAR – PLANT SEEDER
STALKS PREY - STORK’S PREY
CREW’S SHIP – CRUISE SHIP
SOLED SHOES – SOLD SHOES
LED SOLDIERS (army) – LEAD SOLDIERS (toys)
PURL (knitting) STITCHES – PEARL STITCHES
CHOOSE SWEETS - CHEWS SWEETS
TALL STORIES - TALL STOREYS
TOP PEAK – TOP PEKE (dog at Crufts)
TRAIN LYNX – TRAIN LINKS
BEACH TRUNKS (shorts) – BEECH TRUNKS
VET’S SPADE (garden) - VETS SPAVED
WATER CURRANTS – WATER CURRENTS
WATER LEAK – WATER LEEK (vegetable)
WINE CELLAR – WINE SELLER

2. THE TWO PAIRS DO NOT SHARE A LIKE WORD

PLEASE HEARD = PLEASE HERD (please herd the cattle)
USE SCENT = EWES SENT (to market)
MAIL FLYS = MALE FLIES
FORE SHORE = FOR SURE
ROW (boat) DEAR – ROE DEER
WAIST BAND – WASTE BANNED
HAY WAIN – HEY WAYNE!
BEARING STRAIGHT – BERING STRAIT
MORNING DEW – MOURNING JEW
TOLLED BELL – TOLD BELLE

3. THE 2 PAIRS SHARE A LIKE WORD; THE OTHER WORDS ARE TRANSPOSALS

RUDE ACTION - RUED ACTION
BARES BACK - BEAR’S BACK
BOY’S PRIDE - BOYS PRIED
CHOP STEAK (for a stew) - CHOP STAKE (wooden)
BRAKE (of car) CUT (sabotage) - BREAK CUT (less coffee time)
GARDEN HOSE - GARDEN HOES (for breaking up the soil)
PARE SKIN - PEAR SKIN
SMELL ROSE - SMELL ROES (fishy!)
HARDWARE - HARD WEAR