

Homophones

Directions: For each set of homophones write your own sentence using each word properly.

1. **accept, except.** The verb *accept* means "to receive or believe" ; the preposition *except* means *other than*.
2. **ad, add.** *Ad* is an abbreviation for an advertisement. *Add* means to include or unite.
3. **affect, effect** • *Affect* is the verb tense of the word meaning to influence. *Effect* is almost always used as a noun.
4. **allusion, illusion** • *Allusion* is an indirect reference to something, often in literature such as a piece of literature or an historical figure. *Illusion* is a false picture or idea.
5. **already, all ready.** *Already* is an adverb meaning "before this time" or "by this time." *All ready* is an adjective meaning "fully prepared."
6. **altar, alter.** An *alter* is an elevated platform where religious ceremonies take place. *Alter* means to change.
7. **altogether, all together** • *Altogether* means *entirely*. *All together* means *in a group* or *all at once*
8. **bale, bail.** A *bale* is a large bundle or package. *Bail* is money given to temporarily release someone from jail.
9. **bear, bare** • *Bear* means to support or give birth to, it is also an animal. *Bare* means naked, uncovered, or plain.
10. **brake, break.** To *brake* means to stop. *Break* means to reduce to pieces or fragments.
11. **cede, seed.** *Cede* means to surrender to another or transfer. A *seed* is a small part of a plant that will grow into another plant.
12. **cellar, seller** • A *cellar* is an underground room or story. A *seller* is a person who sells things.
13. **cancel, sensor** • To *cancel* means to delete something. A *sensor* is a mechanical device sensitive to light, temperature, radiation level, or the like, that transmits a signal to a measuring or control instrument.
14. **cereal, serial.** *Cereal* is a type of food generally eaten for breakfast. *Serial* pertains to something that occurs in installments or successive parts rather than all at once.
15. **chord, cord.** *Chord* may mean an emotion or feeling, or the combination of two notes at once. A *cord* is a string or rope.
16. **clothes, close** • *Clothes* are used to cover one's body. *Close* means to shut something.
17. **coarse, course** • *Coarse* means rough or crude. *Course* means a direction or path taken, a class, or a procedure.
18. **colonel, kernel.** A *colonel* is an officer in the military. A *kernel* the softer, usually edible part contained in the shell of a nut or the stone of a fruit or the central or most important part of anything.

19. **complement, compliment**• *Complement* refers to something that completes or fulfills. *Compliment* is an expression of admiration.
20. **counsel, council**• When used as a noun, *counsel* means advice; when used as a verb, *counsel* means to advise. *Council* means an assembly of persons summoned or convened for consultation, deliberation, or advice.
21. **creek, creak**• A *creek* is a stream smaller than a river. A *creak* is a noise either sharp, harsh or squeaking.
22. **crews, cruise**• *Crews* is the plural of crew which means a group of people working together. To *cruise* is to travel for pleasure, or with no particular destination in mind.
23. **cue, queue**• A *cue* is anything that excites to action; a hint. A cue is also the stick used to play pool with. A *queue* is a braid of hair worn hanging down behind or a file or line, esp. of people waiting their turn.
24. **doe, dough**• *Doe* is a female deer. *Dough* is a mixture usually consisting of flour and a liquid substance. *Dough* is also slang for money.
25. **dual, duel**• *Dual* means composed or consisting of two. *Duel* is a fight or contest between two people.
26. **err, air, heir**• To *err* is to make a mistake. *Air* is a mixture of nitrogen, oxygen, and minute amounts of other gases that surrounds the earth and forms its atmosphere. An *heir* is a person who inherits, or is entitled to inherit someone's property, title, etc.
27. **fair, fare**• *Fair* means both pretty and free from dishonesty. *Fare* is the price for passage in a vehicle, or food or diet.
28. **feat, feet**• A *feat* is an extraordinary act or achievement. *Feet* are the things you stand on.
29. **fill, feel**• *Fill* means to put stuff inside of something. *Feel* means to touch.
30. **flee, flea**• *Flee* means to leave someplace quickly. *Fleas* are small insects that like to bite animals.
31. **flour, flower**• *Flour* is a powder made from wheat that is used to bake with. *Flowers* are colorful plants.
32. **formerly, formally**• *Formerly* means previously. *Formally* means in a formal manner.
33. **four, for, fore**• *Four* is a number. *For* means intended to belong to. *Fore* means first or situated towards the front.
34. **frays, phrase**• *Frays* can either mean fights, or the unraveled portions of material. A *phrase* is a characteristic expression.
35. **gait, gate**• *Gait* is a manner of walking. A *gate* is something that keeps things in or out.
36. **genes, jeans**• *Genes* refer to a hereditary unit consisting of a sequence of DNA that occupies a specific location on a chromosome and determines a particular characteristic in an organism. *Jeans* are pants made from denim.
37. **great, grate**• *Great* means large in number or wonderful. *Grate* means to reduce to small particles, to have an irritating effect, or as a noun is can refer to a framework of parallel or crossed bars, used as a partition, guard, cover, or the like; grating.

38. **groan, grown**• To *groan* is to make a sound of pain. *Grown* refers to the maturation of something.
39. **halve, have**• *Halve* is to split something in to two pieces. *Have* is to possess or own.
40. **hare, hair**• A *hare* is a rabbit. *Hair* is the fine filaments that grow from the skin.
41. **heal, hill, heel**• To *heal* means to make something better. A *hill* is a place that is elevated. A *heel* is the part of the body opposite the toes on the foot.
42. **hear, here**• *Hear* refers to the sense that picks up sounds. *Here* refers to the location of something.
43. **heard, herd**• *Heard* means that the sound has been observed. A *herd* is a group of animals (i.e. a herd of cows).
44. **holy, wholly**• *Holy* is something sacred or religious. *Wholly* means entirely.
45. **hostel, hostile**• A *Hostel* is a place where students and young people can sleep inexpensively. *Hostile* means not friendly.
46. **idle, idol**• *Idle* means not working or active. An *idol* is something or someone that is worshipped.
47. **isle, aisle**• *Isle* refers to a small island. *Aisle* is a walkway between sections of seats.
48. **it's, its**• *It's* is the contraction of it is. *Its* is the possessive form of it.
49. **knead, knead, need**• *Knead* is when someone is struck by the knee. *Knead* is the motion required to make bread dough. To *need* is to require something.
50. **latter, ladder**• *Latter* is the second of two things. *Ladder* is used to climb up.
51. **leak, leek**• *Leak* is a hole or crack in which light, liquid, or gas escapes. *Leek* is a type of vegetable.
52. **led, lead**• *Led* is the past tense of lead, which means to show the way. *Lead* is a type of metal also known as graphite.
53. **lien, lean**• A *lien* is the right to hold property of another until debt is paid. *Lean* means to balance on something or not fat.
54. **main, mane**• *Main* refers to the major part of something, it can also refer to a pipe. *Mane* is the long hair growing around the neck of a lion or horse.
55. **mall, maul**• A *mall* is a group of stores for shopping. To *maul* is to injure.
56. **medal, meddle**• A *medal* is a flat piece of metal given to someone to commemorate some event. To *meddle* is to interfere when it is unwanted.
57. **mettle, metal**• *Mettle* is courage. *Metal* is a substance such as gold or copper.
58. **might, mite**• *Might* can mean physical strength, or it can be used to express the possibility of something happening. *Mite* refers to something that is small. It can also refer to a small bug.
59. **minor, miner**• A *Minor* is someone who is younger than the established age of adulthood. *Minor* also means something that is small. A *miner* is someone who works in a mine.
60. **mode, mowed**• *Mode* is a method or manner of acting or doing. *Mowed* is the past tense of mow which means to cut.
61. **more, moor**• *More* means in greater quantity. A *moor* is a tract of land preserved for game.

62. **morning, mourning**• *Morning* refers to the time before noon. *Mourning* is the period in which a person expresses grief over a death or loss.
63. **muscles, mussels**• *Muscles* are tissue that allow bodily movement. *Mussels* are a sea creature covered by a shell.
64. **ode, owed**• An *ode* is a poem or song that celebrates something's good characteristics. *Owed* means being under obligation to pay something back.
65. **pail, pale**• A *pail* is a bucket. *Pale* is light in color.
66. **pain, pane**• *Pain* is something that hurts. A *pane* is a piece of glass used in a window.
67. **pair, pear, pare**• A *pair* is a set of two things that go together. A *pear* is a type of fruit. To *pare* is to cut off the outer coating of something.
68. **past, passed**• *Passed* is a verb. *Past* can be used as a noun, adjective, or a preposition.
69. **peace, piece**• *Peace* means a time without war. *Piece* is a section or part of something.
70. **peak, pique, peek**• *Peak* is the highest point of something. *Pique* is to gain someone's interest. *Peek* is to sneak a look at something.
71. **peer, pier**• To *peer* is to look at something. A *pier* is a structure that extends from the land over the ocean.
72. **picture, pitcher**• A *picture* is an image of something. A *pitcher* is something that holds liquid.
73. **plain, plane**• *Plain* means simple, common or a flat area of land. *Plane* is a short form of airplane or a flat surface.
74. **plaintiff, plaintive**• A *plaintiff* is a person who brings a lawsuit to court as opposed to a defendant. *Plaintive* means to express sorrow.
75. **plait, plate**• A *plait* is either a braid or a type of fold also known as a pleat. *Plate* is a round flat object used to hold food.
76. **pours, pores**• *Pours* is to make something flow as from a container. *Pores* are small openings in tissue (as in the skin or a human or animal) or rocks.
77. **pray, prey**• To *pray* is to worship. *Prey* is a person or thing that is the victim of an enemy.
78. **presence, presents**• *Presence* is the state of being present (there). *Presents* are gifts.
79. **principal, principle**• As an adjective, *principal* means primary. As a noun, it can mean a school administrator or a sum of money. *Principle* means idea or doctrine.
80. **profit, prophet**• *Profit* means to gain from something. *Prophet* is a person who speaks for god.
81. **rain, rein, reign**• *Rain* is when water comes from the sky. *Rein* is a leather strap attached to a bit of a bridle and used to control a horse. *Reign* means the period in which a monarch rules, or widespread influence.
82. **raise, rays, raze**• *Raise* means to make something higher. *Rays* are thin lines or narrow beams of light. *Raze* means to demolish, shave off, or level to the ground.
83. **real, reel**• *Real* means true. A *reel* a cylinder, frame, or other device that turns on an axis and is used to wind up or pay out something, or a roll of motion picture film.

84. **right, write**• *Right* means in accordance with fact, reason or truth. *Write* means to form words on a surface such as a sheet of paper.
85. **ringer, wringer**• Any person or thing that is fraudulent; fake or impostor, a student paid by another to take an exam. The sound a phone makes when someone calls. A *wringer* is an apparatus or machine for squeezing liquid out of anything wet, as two rollers through which an article of wet clothing may be squeezed.
86. **road, rode, rowed**• *Road* is an area meant to be traveled on by vehicles. *Rode* is the past tense of the verb to ride. *Rowed* is the act of using oars in a boat to make it move in the water.
87. **roll, role**• A *roll* is a circular piece of bread, or to roll is to move a circular object. A *role* is a part, such as in a play.
88. **root, route**• A *root* can be an underground portion of a plant or the base or support of something. A *route* is a road or course of travel.
89. **rye, wry**• *Rye* is a grain sometimes used to make bread, it is also a type of whiskey. *Wry* is distorted or perverted, as in meaning, can also be ironic.
90. **seen, scene**• *Seen* is the present perfect of the work saw (I have seen his blue shirt). *Scene* is a part of something, such as the scene of a film.
91. **sent, scent**• *Sent* is the past tense of to send. *Scent* is the odor of something.
92. **sew, sow**• *Sew* means to join or attach by stitches. *Sow* to scatter (seed) over land, earth, etc., for growth; plant.
93. **shear, sheer**• *Shear* means to cut something. *Sheer* is something that is transparent (see-through).
94. **shone, shown**• *Shone* is the past tense of shine which means to shed light. *Shown* is the past tense of to show, which means to allow to be seen.
95. **sighs, size**• *Sighs* is the plural version of long exhales in weariness or relief. *Size* is the physical dimension of an object.
96. **sight, cite, site**• *Sight* means the act of seeing. *Cite* means to quote or to summon. *Site* means location or position.
97. **sink, sync**• *Sink* means to fall or drop. *Sync* means to be in harmony.
98. **slay, sleigh**• *Slay* means to kill. *Sleigh* is a vehicle used over snow or ice.
99. **some, sum**• *Some* is an unspecified number or quantity. *Sum* is the amount obtained as a result of adding two numbers.
100. **stair, stare**• *Stairs* is a series of steps going from one level to another. To *stare* is to look at something or someone for an extended amount of time.
101. **stake, steak**• A *stake* is a stick or post pointed at one end for driving into the ground as a boundary mark, part of a fence, support for a plant, etc. *Steak* is a thick slice of meat.
102. **stationery, stationary**• *Stationery* refers to paper and envelopes used to write letters. *Stationary* means not moveable.
103. **still, steal, steel**• *Still* means not moving. *Steal* means to take something. *Steel* is a type of metal.
104. **strait, straight**• A *strait* is a narrow channel joining two bodies of water. *Straight* means extending continuously in the same direction.

105. **succeed, secede**• To *succeed* is to thrive, prosper, grow, or the like. *Secede* to withdraw formally from an alliance, federation, or association, as from a political union, a religious organization, etc.
106. **sweet, suite**• *Sweet* means having the taste or flavor characteristic of sugar, honey, etc. Or pleasing or agreeable; delightful. *Suite* is a connected series of rooms to be used together.
107. **tale, tail**• A *tale* is a falsehood; lie. a rumor or piece of gossip. A *tail* is the hindmost part of an animal.
108. **taught, taut**• *Taught* is the past tense of to teach. *Taut* is to pull something tightly.
109. **tax, tacks**• *Tax* is money charged by the government. *Tacks* are short nails with sharp points.
110. **teem, team**• *Teem* can mean fertile or abound with something. *Team* a number of persons associated in some joint action.
111. **tees, teas, tease**• *Tees* are small pegs used to hold golf balls. *Teas* is the plural of tea, a hot beverage made from tea leaves. *Tease* is to annoy someone or something.
112. **tents, tense**• *Tents* are used to sleep in outdoors. *Tense* means uptight.
113. **than, then**• *Than* is used in a comparison. *Then* tells when.
114. **their, there, they're**• *Their* is the possessive form of they. *There* is at, in, to, or into a place. *They're* is a contraction for they are.
115. **threw, through**• *Threw* is the past tense of throw. *Through* means passing from one side of something to the other.
116. **throw, throe**• *Throw* means to toss something. *Throe* a sharp attack of emotion or a violent spasm or pang.
117. **tide, tied**• *Tide* the inflow, outflow, or current of water at any given place resulting from the waves of tides. *Tied* to bind, fasten, or attach with a cord, string, or the like, drawn together and knotted.
118. **too, to, two**• *Too* means also. *To* means in a direction to. *Two* is a number.
119. **vain, vane, vein**• *Vain* means valueless or fruitless; it may also mean holding a high regard for one's self. *Vane* is a flat piece of material set up to show the way the wind blows. *Vein* refers to a blood vessel or mineral deposit.
120. **vale, veil**• *Vale* is a valley, often coursed by a stream. A *veil* is a piece of opaque or transparent material worn over the face for concealment.
121. **vial, vile**• *Vial* means a small container usually used for liquids. *Vile* is something that is disgusting.
122. **wade, weighed**• To *wade* is to walk through water, snow, sand, or any other substance that impedes free motion or offers resistance to movement. *Weighed* To balance in the mind in order to make a choice; ponder or evaluate. Or to determine the weight of something.
123. **wail, whale**• To *wail* means to express deep sorrow or cry. A *whale* is a mammal that lives in the ocean. Whale can also mean to hit, thrash, or beat soundly.
124. **waste, waist**• *Waste* means to destroy, devastate, or ruin. *Waist* the part of the body in humans between the ribs and the hips, usually the narrowest part of the torso.

125. **wave, waive**• *Wave* a disturbance on the surface of a liquid body, as the sea or a lake, in the form of a moving ridge or swell or a widespread feeling, opinion, tendency. *Waive* means to give up.
126. **wear, where, ware**• To *wear* is to carry or have on the body a covering. *Where* tells in or at what place. *Ware* is an article of merchandise.
127. **weather, whether**• Use *weather* when referring to the state of the air or atmosphere. *Whether* is a synonym for "if".
128. **weave, we've**• *Weave* to form by interlacing threads, yarns, strands, or strips of some material. *We've* is a contraction for we have.
129. **who's, whose**• *Who's* is the contraction for who is. *Whose* is the possessive pronoun.
130. **will, wheel**• A *will* is either a document or the desire to do something. A *wheel* is something round used in vehicles.
131. **would, wood**• *Would* is the past tense of will. *Wood* is a substance obtained from trees.
132. **wrack, rack**• *Wreck* means damage or destruction. *Rack* a fixture containing several tiered shelves, often affixed to a wall or to strain in mental effort.
133. **wreak, reek**• *Wreak* to inflict or execute. *Reek* is a strong, unpleasant smell.