

Fact sheet Level 2

Homophones

The word **homophone** is made from two combining forms:

- **homo-** (from the Greek word "homos", meaning "same")
- **-phone** (from the Greek word "phone", meaning "voice" or "sound")

You will see many English words using one or other of these combining forms.

The following list of 70 groups of homophones contains only the most common homophones, using relatively well-known words. These are headwords only. No inflections (such as third person singular "s" or noun plurals) are included.

Are you clear about each of the different meanings? Can you spot any you are not sure about?

air	heir	
aisle	isle	
ante-	anti-	
eye	I	
bare	bear	bear
be	bee	
brake	break	
buy	by	
cell	sell	
cent	scent	
cereal	serial	

coarse	course	
complement	compliment	
dam	damn	
dear	deer	
die	dye	
fair	fare	
fir	fur	
flour	flower	
for	four	
hair	hare	
heal	heel	
hear	here	
him	hymn	
hole	whole	
hour	our	
idle	idol	
in	inn	
knight	night	
knot	not	
know	no	
made	maid	
mail	male	
meat	meet	
morning	mourning	

none	nun	
oar	or	
one	won	
pair	pear	
peace	piece	
plain	plane	
poor	pour	
pray	prey	
principal	principle	
profit	prophet	
real	reel	
right	write	
root	route	
sail	sale	
sea	see	
seam	seem	
sight	site	
sew	so	SOW
shore	sure	
sole	soul	
some	sum	
son	sun	
stair	stare	
stationary	stationery	

steal	steel	
suite	sweet	
tail	tale	
their	there	
to	too	two
toe	tow	
waist	waste	
wait	weight	
way	weigh	
weak	week	
wear	where	

NB: In a few cases, a third homophone, although possible, has not been included for simplicity. Different varieties and accents of English may produce variations in some of these pronunciations. The homophones listed here are based on British English.