

Words often sound alike because of their regional pronunciations. In North America, it is common to pronounce the letter **T** like a **D** when it is in the middle of a word. For example:

- wader = a person who wades or walks through water
- waiter = a person who works as a server in a restaurant
- bedding = blankets and linens for a bed
- betting = placing a bet, gambling

Not all people pronounce the letter **T** in this manner, but because so many do, homophones such as these are included in this chapter.

Let's look at more examples of homophones.

HOMOPHONE	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
budding	blossoming	He was a budding rock star.
butting	hitting with head or horns	You're butting your head against the wall.
die	perish, succumb	Eventually, everyone must die.
dye	color, tint	Why do you want to dye your hair?
discussed	talked over	We discussed this problem yesterday.
disgust	sicken	Your remarks really disgust me.
doe	female deer	The fawn is looking for the doe.
dough	moistened flour	Tom is making the bread dough.
earn	deserve, work for	You will earn your degree this year.
urn	large vase	The shrub is growing in a large urn.
ewe	female sheep	The large ewe over there is pregnant.
yew	evergreen tree	We have several yews in our yard.
you	second person pronoun	Do I know you?
fair	just	It's not fair. You always win.
fare	money for transport	How much is the bus fare to Vine Street?

Be aware that there can be more than one meaning for some homophones. For example:

fair 1. just 2. not stormy 3. pretty 4. an exhibition or a carnival

This book gives the most prominent meaning.

HOMOPHONE	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
flour	meal for baking	Put some flour and milk in the bowl.
flower	a bloom	What pretty flowers!
gait	stride	I can tell by her gait that she feels better.
gate	door in a fence	Please don't let the gate slam.

HOMOPHONE	MEANING	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
gnu	South African antelope	There is a large, male gnu at the zoo now.
knew	past tense of <i>know</i>	I knew you were hiding behind the door.
new	opposite of <i>old</i>	Marie bought a new car.
he'll	contraction for <i>he will</i>	He'll be back from Afghanistan next week.
heal	restore to health	This medicine will help to heal him.
heel	back part of the foot	I have a blister on my heel.
ladder	device for climbing	Find a ladder and get the kite off the roof.
latter	second of two	Your former answer was correct. The latter is not.
metal	substances like iron	You need a strong roof. Make it out of metal.
meddle	interfere	Why does your father meddle in our business?

EXERCISE

3.3

Complete the missing line of dialogue with any appropriate sentence that includes one of the previously illustrated homophones. For example:

Is your husband coming home soon?

Yes, he'll arrive on the four-o'clock train.

1. A wooden gate will rot in this weather.

2. I put milk and butter in the bowl. Do you need anything else?

3. The two large gnus in that pen look angry.

4. Why is that deer so fat?

5. Here comes Uncle Henry. He thinks I don't earn enough money.

6. _____?

The bus ride from here to the new mall costs \$2.

7. _____?

Yes, I love roses and violets.

8. I heard you got a raise in pay.

9. Grandmother always gives you a dollar, and she only gives me 50 cents.

10. How did you change the color of your blouse?

11. _____?

I think he walks like that because he's drunk.

12. How can we get the cat out of that tree?

13. Are you going to buy an old house to fix up?

14. That pot is too small for that large plant.

15. Why are you limping?

16. I didn't know you were acquainted with Jack Swanson.

17. Is that tree an ordinary pine?

18. The plumbing in our house consists mostly of plastic pipes.

19. I keep telling you that we have to save money. We can't spend so much, and you need a job.

20. _____

Are you going to make bread with it?