

Homonyms and Homographs

Review Many common English words are homonyms or homographs. **Homonyms** are words that have the same spelling and sound but have different meanings and origins—that is they have separate dictionary entries. **Homographs** are words that are spelled the same, have different meanings, and are also pronounced differently.

A. Directions: Read each pair of homonyms. Then match them with their meanings. You may want to check some words in the dictionary.

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| c 1. <i>hide / hide</i> | a. say the letters of a word / a short time |
| j 2. <i>strand / strand</i> | b. knock over / a round food container |
| i 3. <i>light / light</i> | c. stay out of sight / animal skin |
| h 4. <i>bluff / bluff</i> | d. a flying mammal / a heavy stick |
| e 5. <i>shed / shed</i> | e. a small building / let drop or fall |
| b 6. <i>bowl / bowl</i> | f. a thin piece of wood / cling to |
| g 7. <i>lean / lean</i> | g. thin / slant the body in one direction |
| a 8. <i>spell / spell</i> | h. mislead / a steep riverbank or cliff |
| f 9. <i>stick / stick</i> | i. not heavy / something to see by |
| d 10. <i>bat / bat</i> | j. a thread or string / leave helpless |

B. Directions: Read each sentence. Next to the number of each sentence, **write** the letter of the pronunciation of the underlined word.

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|---|-------------------|
| <u>d</u> 11. A <u>live</u> wire carries electric current. | a. [târ] |
| <u>g</u> 12. How long did you <u>live</u> in that tent? | b. [wound] |
| <u>e</u> 13. Let's <u>wind</u> up this job today. | c. [wĭnd] |
| <u>c</u> 14. The <u>wind</u> blew off our roof. | d. [lĭv] |
| <u>a</u> 15. How did you <u>tear</u> your coat? | e. [wĭnd] |
| <u>h</u> 16. Wipe the <u>tear</u> from your eye. | f. [woōnd] |
| <u>f</u> 17. Did the doctor stitch the <u>wound</u> ? | g. [lĭv] |
| <u>b</u> 18. I <u>wound</u> flowers around the pole. | h. [târ] |

Homophones and Commonly Confused Words

Review Many common English words are homophones. **Homophones** are pairs of words that sound the same but have different meanings. **Commonly confused words** are words that are often mistaken for each other because they are so similar in sound, spelling, or meaning.

A. Directions: Read each homophone or commonly confused word. Then **match** it with its meaning. You may want to check some words in the dictionary.

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|----------------------------|---|
| b 1. <i>advise</i> | a. a sweet course at the end of a meal |
| h 2. <i>advice</i> | b. to give counsel |
| e 3. <i>pain</i> | c. framed sheet of glass |
| c 4. <i>pane</i> | d. belonging to them |
| j 5. <i>there</i> | e. distress or discomfort |
| d 6. <i>their</i> | f. blossom or bloom |
| i 7. <i>desert</i> | g. finely milled wheat |
| a 8. <i>dessert</i> | h. helpful hints |
| g 9. <i>flour</i> | i. abandon |
| f 10. <i>flower</i> | j. in that place |

B. Directions: **Underline** the word in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence. **Check** the dictionary, if necessary.

11. Is it true that a tiger attacked (**two** / too) people at the zoo?
12. First I went to baseball practice, (than / **then**) choir rehearsal.
13. Did you lose a lot of (**weight** / wait) over the summer?
14. Did your parents give you any (**advice** / advise) about what to do?
15. I recognized you (to / **too**), but I've forgotten your name.
16. Other students are also waiting, so please have some (**patience** / patients).