

Confusing Words Worksheet

In the English language, there are many words that may seem the same at a quick glance, but are actually, entirely different!

Consider the following words:

Common Homophones											
effect	affect		rain	reign	rein		here	hear		know	no
waist	waste		too	to	two		fair	fare		plain	plane
heard	herd		their	they're	there		hole	whole		loose	lose
discrete	discreet		rite	write	right		meat	meet		road	road

These words are called **“homophones”** or, **more commonly, “homonyms”**; words that sound the same but are spelt differently.

Let's observe two questions that can make writing homonyms easier!

1. Does the sentence make sense when you reread it?

Though pronunciation does not often help when determining whether or not the homonym is correct, a careful rereading could reveal small mistakes and should be standard practice for a writer.

2. Did you look up the meaning in a dictionary or online?

Simply put, if the word looks wrong, look it up! A quick search through the dictionary or the internet may be enough to clear any confusion.

Let's Review: Write down the correct word in the sentence.

1. Words that sound the same but are spelt differently are called _____ or _____.
2. Though _____ may not be helpful when using the correct homonym, _____ is always helpful in finding small _____ and should be standard practice for a writer.
3. If a word looks wrong, _____ _____ _____!
4. To find the meanings of words that are homonyms, we can use a _____ or the _____.

Let's Practice: Underline the correct word in the parenthesis.

5. The (forth, fourth) singer of the choir seemed to be off- key.
6. Though the (weather, whether) seems bad, the (rain, reign) might be light enough to play outside later.
7. Joseph and Joey decided to walk (to, too, two) the park. Aziz went (to, too, two).
8. The farmer (heard, herd) his (heard, herd) of sheep even though they were far away.
9. Most of the class was (accepted, excepted) into the debate club (accept, except) Martha and Jackson.
10. It was a surprise to hear that the (fare, fair) to the (fare, fair) was reduced on the weekends.
11. The recipe Diane was using seemed to call for (whole, hole), un-diced onions and spoiled (meat, meet) . Sam did not want to know what was for (desert, dessert).
12. Next (week, weak), (there, they're, their) will be a new actor who plays the (which, witch) in the play.
13. Despite the (scene, seen) of the crime being (discreet, discrete), crows and wild dogs seem to not (know, no) standard crime scene preservation guidelines.

Answer Key

1. a. Homophones , b. homonyms
2. a. pronunciation, b. reading, c. mistakes
3. look it up
4. a. dictionary, b. internet
5. fourth
6. a. weather, b. rain
7. a. to, b. too
8. a. heard, b. herd
9. a. accepted, b. except
10. a. fare, b. fair
11. a. whole, b. meat, c. dessert
12. a. week, b. there, c. witch
13. a. scene, b. discreet, c. know