

Quick Guide

4 Ways to Explore Words with the Homophone Machine

Are you ready to create some silly sentences with homophones (those tricky words that sound alike, such as *there* and *their*)? We've got just the thing! The [Homophone Machine app](#) was created with fun-loving kids in mind. Here are four ways to explore words with this fun tool!

1

Playing with more than one person? Have a contest to see who can create a readable sentence with the highest number of incorrectly used homophones.

2

Point out that William Shakespeare was not a careful speller—in fact, he even spelled his own name several different ways! But what if he had gone one step further? What if he had carelessly used homophones, paying no mind to choosing the proper word? We might have ended up with famous phrases like these:

"Two bee, oar knot two bee."

"This above awl: two thine own self bee true."

"A hoarse! A hoarse! My kingdom four a hoarse!"

"Good knight, good knight! Parting is such suite sorrow, that eye shall say good knight till it bee morrow."

What other silly Shakespearean phrases might have resulted? Type some of your favorite lines into the Homophone Machine to find out.

3

Demonstrate that your computer's spell checker, although a handy tool, will not necessarily catch incorrect usage. Then introduce your kids to the poem "[Candidate for a Pullet Surprise](#)" by Dr. Jerrold Zar, which aptly illustrates what can happen if you rely too much on the spell checker! Astonishingly, though more than 50% of the poem's words (127 out of 224) are incorrect, all the words are *spelled* correctly.

4

Copy and paste the lyrics to a song, a nursery rhyme, a favorite poem, or the text from a favorite picture book into the Homophone Machine to see what you get!

