## fommonhomea <br> Homophones

## $\{$ Your Complete Tool Kit!

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What's Inside

* Graphic organizers
* 101 engaging workshects

GRADES

* Fun games and challenging activities
* More homophones than you can shake a stick at


## Table of Contents

Introduction to Homophones ..... 9
Graphic Organizers
Using Graphic Organizers ..... 15
Selection of Graphic Organizers ..... 16
Homophone Worksheets
Suggestions for Using the Worksheets ..... 25
List of Homophone Worksheets ..... 26
Worksheets ..... 27
Crossword Puzzles ..... 141
Homophone Card Games
Using Games to Teach Homophones ..... 163
Pig ..... 165
Go Fish ..... 166
Old Maid ..... 167
Homophone Pile-Up ..... 168
Homophone Memory Game ..... 169
Snap! ..... 170
Game Cards ..... 171
More Teaching Tools
Teaching Homophones with Books ..... 199
Student Record Sheets ..... 201
Tongue Twisters ..... 204
Riddles ..... 212
Puns ..... 213
Appendices
Appendix A: Worksheet Answer Keys ..... 217
Appendix B: Crossword Answer Keys ..... 225
Appendix C: Homophones Used in Activities ..... 229
Appendix D: Mega-List of Homophones ..... 231
Bibliography ..... 239

## INTRODUCTION



## Introduction to Homophones

I can still remember the day I first found out about homophones. My second grade teacher had a small collection of books on a low shelf in the back of the classroom. After we were done with our work we could choose a book and bring it back to our desks. One day I discovered a book that had pairs of homophones. It was the first time I realized that such things existed and my pulse quickened. The thrill of such knowledge! I read that book over and over, and to this day I still like these pairs of words!

The fact is, many students find homophones interesting. You can capitalize on this interest and use homophones to teach reading, writing, and vocabulary. Lessons that include homophones provide the perfect opportunity to play with words and have some fun with language.

## What are homophones?

Homo means same and phone means sound, so the word homophone literally means same sound. Homophones are two or more words that sound alike but that are spelled differently and have different meanings. Sets of homophones include billed and build, peace and piece, and sew, so, and sow.

Homophones occur in English because we have multiple ways to spell the same sound. For example:

* The sound of $/ \mathrm{n} /$ can be spelled with the letter $\underline{n}$ or the letter combination $\underline{\mathrm{kn}}$, resulting in the homophones night and knight.
* The sound of $/ \bar{a} /$ can be spelled $\underline{a}$-consonant-e or ay (among other possible spellings), giving us daze and days.
* The schwa sound (the muffled /uh/ sound of vowels in unaccented syllables) causes words like complement and compliment to be pronounced
 alike.


## A note about regional accents

Regional accents can affect whether words are homophones or not. A few words are homophones in some areas but not in others. For example, weather and whether are pronounced the same in certain parts of America, but in other regions the wh in whether has retained a distinct /hw/ sound. The words acts and ax sound alike to most of us, but some people pronounce the $t$ in acts.

Speakers in the U.S. pronounce due and do identically, but in most British accents they are pronounced differently. The words boy and buoy have the same pronunciation in England (and therefore are homophones) but not in America.

As you use the activities in this book, you should be the final judge as to whether certain word pairs are homophones in your neck of the woods.


## Graphic Organizers

These organizers provide room for creativity and individual expression as students learn the meanings of new homophones.


## Homophone Worksheets

Much more interesting than your average worksheets! These pages provide ideas for creative reinforcement, including activities that will get your students thinking, reading, writing, and speaking. They provide learners an opportunity to practice new skills in order to truly master them.


## Crossword Puzzles

Provide your students with extra reinforcement with these homophone puzzles. Clever graphics and riddles add an element of humor.


## Card Games

The intellectual stimulation provided by games keeps kids learning and making new connections between words. Instructions and game cards for six quick, motivating games are included.

And More!<br>Capture the attention of your students with these additional resources:<br>* Teaching Homophones with Books<br>* Student Record Sheets for Recording Personal Lists of Homophones<br>* Tongue Twisters<br>* Riddles and Puns<br>* Mega-List of Homophones

Dip into this book often and use the wide variety of activities to enhance your lessons!

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS



## Using Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are a great way to teach homophones to children. There are many benefits to using these graphic organizers.

* Graphic organizers help communicate information through charts and diagrams.
* They help sharpen analysis and communication skills.
* Students learn the meaning of the homophone when they fill in the definition.
* Students have the opportunity to practice using the homophones in original sentences.
* There is room for creativity and individual expression, which can help students remember the homophones more easily.
* Organizing information makes it easier for students to grasp the differences between homophones.
* The organizers promote a sense of student ownership of knowledge because they replace teachergenerated sheets with student-generated writing.
* Graphic organizers offer students a hands-on approach to learning new words.

Here are some ideas for using graphic organizers in the classroom:

* Have students fill in their own graphic organizers so that each student's sheet is unique.
* Students can decorate their work with crayons or colored pencils.
* Completed graphic organizers can be used as a study aid for spelling, reading, and vocabulary.
* Use the organizers as an assessment tool.
* Store the organizers in a classroom binder (like a class book) or keep them in individual student portfolios. Students can punch holes in them and place in a three-ring binder.
* Encourage students to come up with their own sentences using the homophones.
* When teaching a new set of homophones to your students, draw a graphic organizer on the chalkboard or dry erase board. Fill in the different sections as you discuss them with your students.

Following are six graphic organizers that you can copy and use with your students.

## Definition

$\qquad$

## Sentences

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Definition

$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Word

## Definition

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
Sentence
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Word

## Definition

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Sentence

$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Synonyms

## Picture

## HOMOPHONE WORKSHEETS



## Suggestions for Using the Worksheets

Worksheets give students targeted practice with the proper use of homophones. Each fill-in-the-blank worksheet in this section features a single set of homophones. Answer keys for the worksheets are located in Appendix A.

For ease in locating the homophone pairs you want to teach, worksheets are arranged in alphabetical order within each suggested grade level section. All homophones are also cross-referenced with page numbers in Appendix C.

At the bottom of each worksheet you will find fun facts, tongue twisters, writing activities, and other nifty features that will help reinforce the homophones learned. In addition, the worksheets offer a jumpingoff point for many other creative activities that will get your students thinking, reading, writing, and speaking. Here are a few more ideas you can try:

## Vocabulary

* Teach the meanings of the homophones before handing out the worksheet.
* Use the graphic organizers to teach definitions and to list synonyms.
* Have students circle other unfamiliar words in the sentences and look up definitions.


## Creative Writing

* Use the worksheets to teach literary devices such as rhyme, simile, alliteration, assonance, and meter.
* Students can use the homophone pairs to create their own tongue twisters, riddles, songs, and poems.
* Have students choose a sentence from the worksheet and use it as a writing prompt for a brief story, poem, or descriptive paragraph. Encourage them to use the targeted homophones and their imaginations.


## Reading and Research

* Use the Fun Facts! and Try This! features to encourage further reading and research on a topic suggested in the sentences.


## Speaking

* Write the homophone pairs on the board and use the sentences to hold a classroom Homophone Bee.
* Project the worksheets on the wall and call on students individually to provide the correct word.
* Have students recite their original tongue twisters, poems, sentences, and so on.


## Art/Drama

* Have students draw pictures of the homophone pairs and label the pictures with the correct words.
* Create a homophones bulletin board with student-generated art and writing.
* Have students act out a homophone for the rest of the class to guess and spell.
* Students can write and perform silly skits using designated homophone pairs.


## Reinforcement

* Use the crossword puzzles and games included in this book to review homophones learned.
* Have students write their own fill-in-the-blank sentences and use them to "quiz" their classmates.
road\&rOde


## Name:

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: road or rode.

1. This $\qquad$ has twists and turns, so fasten your seatbelt.
2. Ted $\qquad$ the roller coaster until he was dizzy.
3. The cowboys $\qquad$ their horses to the end of the dirt $\qquad$ .
4. Sue was lost and didn't know which $\qquad$ to take.
5. Alex $\qquad$ his bike in the parade.
6. The Roman soldiers $\qquad$ on the old stone $\qquad$ until the break of dawn.
7. I $\qquad$ an elephant at the circus last week!
8. The tribe $\qquad$ their camels across the desert.
9. The scarecrow danced down the Yellow Brick $\qquad$ .
10. There's a moose in the middle of the $\qquad$ !

## Fun Facts!

How old is the street you live on? One of the oldest paved roads in the world is in Egypt. Built 4,600 years ago, it is about seven miles long and is located near the Great Pyramids of Giza. In Italy, the Aurelia road was built between ancient Rome and Pisa over 2,000 years ago-and is still used today!

# Homophones <br> sale:sail 

Name:
Fill in the blanks with the correct word: sale or sail.

1. If there is a $\qquad$ on worms, would you buy me fourteen of them?
2. We are ready to $\qquad$ as soon as the storm stops.
3. My mom made cupcakes for the bake $\qquad$ .
4. We bought this $\qquad$ on $\qquad$ but it's full of holes.
5. Why does she always $\qquad$ into class five minutes late?
6. Every video game in the store was on $\qquad$ today.
7. We heard the crack of the bat and watched the ball $\qquad$ through the air.
8. Let's $\qquad$ around the island and go to the seashell $\qquad$ on the other side.
9. The pirates planned to $\qquad$ away in the dead of night.
10. They heard there was a $\qquad$ on eye patches and didn't want to miss it.

## Silly Sentences!

Make up your own silly sentences using the homophones sale and sail. Try to start most of the words with the letter $s$.

# Homophones <br> pale: pail 

## Name:

Fill in the blanks with the correct word: pale or pail.

1. Wild rabbits hopped in the $\qquad$ light of dawn.
2. He dragged that heavy $\qquad$ of rocks for three miles.
3. Why did Peter put his peppers in a $\qquad$ ?
4. Sue turned $\qquad$ when she saw that her $\qquad$ was empty.
5. They crept along the wooded path, lit only by a $\qquad$ moon.
6. She looked like a rosebud in her $\qquad$ pink dress.
7. Alan poured a whole $\qquad$ of berries on his pancakes.
8. Bobby asked me to fill this $\qquad$ with $\qquad$ green bugs.
9. Jill woke from her nightmare, $\qquad$ with fear.
10. "I dreamed I dropped my $\qquad$ of water," she wailed.

## Pun Play!

A pun is a humorous play on words that uses homophones or words with multiple meanings. Can you figure out the pun in the riddle below?
Q. Why was the pail pale?
A. It wasn't a well bucket.

# Homophones <br> capital\& capitol 

Name:
Fill in the blanks with the correct word: capital or capitol.

1. Katy kept quiet about her secret location in the $\qquad$ city.
2. With a whoosh of his cape, Superman flew to the top of the $\qquad$ .
3. Use a $\qquad$ letter when you write about the $\qquad$ building.
4. "What a $\qquad$ idea!" bellowed the jolly old soul.
5. Eagle River, Wisconsin claims to be the "snowmobile $\qquad$ of the world."
6. She whispered the code word and the doors to the $\qquad$ swung open.
7. Was it a $\qquad$ offense to eat corn on the cob on the steps of the state $\qquad$ ?
8. She baked a cake in the shape of the $\qquad$ building for the lawyer's birthday.
9. Why did the senator crawl into the $\qquad$ on his hands and knees?
10. The cackling cats in their camel coats committed a $\qquad$ error.

## Fun Facts!

Hollywood may be the movie capital of the world, but lots of other American cities claim to be the "capital of the world" for something, too. Take a look at these:

- Bandera, Texas - Cowboy Capital of the World
- Kennett Square, Pennsylvania - Mushroom Capital of the World
- Sheboygan, Wisconsin - Bratwurst Capital of the World
- Parke County, Indiana - Covered Bridge Capital of the World
- Coconut Creek, Florida - Butterfly Capital of the World
- Beaver, Oklahoma - Cow Chip Throwing Capital of the World


## CROSSWORD P U Z Z L E S



## Crossword Two Pears



## Across

3 way up in the air
5 the color of the sky
6 one penny
9 Jim $\qquad$ a horse yesterday.
10 I $\qquad$ her name.
road blew cent hi new hole whole blue knew rode high sent

## Down

1 what you say when you greet someone
2 I can't believe he ate the $\qquad$ pizza!
3 an opening or gap where something is missing
4 She $\qquad$ a letter to her pen pal.
5 The big bad wolf $\qquad$ the house down.
7 opposite of old
8 what you drive a car on


## Riddle:

What do you call two pears?

- sued read V


## Sir Lancelot



## Across

4 painful or tender to the touch
5 letters and packages that you send or receive
6 simple; not fancy
9 a device that allows you to slow down or stop a car or bicycle
11 a white powder made of wheat that is used in baking
12 the time of day when the moon is out
13 to fly or glide high in the sky

## Word Bank

night brake flour break plain soar loan mail lone male plane flower sore knight

1 what humans fly in
2 to give someone something to use for a short period of time
3 the colorful blossom of a plant
7 single; only one
8 opposite of female
9 to smash or cause something to separate into pieces
10 a noble soldier who rides a horse and wears armor

## Riddle:



What do you say to a soldier in shining armor when he goes to bed?


# HOMOPHONE CARD GAMES 



## Snap!

## You will need:

Word Cards for 26 sets of homophones.

## Number of players:

2-6

## Objective:

To win all of the cards.

## How to play:

Shuffle the cards well and deal them all out, face down and one at a time, to each player. The cards do not need to come out even.

Each player puts his cards face down in a pile in front of him. The player on the dealer's left turns up his top card and begins a face-up pile next to his face-down pile. The next player does the same, and so on around the table.

## Snap!

When someone turns up a card that forms a homophone pair with a card already face up on another player's pile, the first person to notice the two matched cards (ant/aunt, there/their, gait/gate, and so on) calls out "Snap!" and wins both piles. The player adds the cards to the bottom of his face-down pile.

If two players shout "Snap!" at the same time, the two piles are combined and placed face up in the middle of the table to form a "Snap Pot." Play continues where it left off with the player to the left of the last player who turned over a card.

If a player sees a card that forms a homophone pair with the card on top of the Snap Pot, he shouts "Snap Pot!" and wins all of those cards.

If a player runs out of cards in his face-down pile during the game, he turns his face-up cards down and continues to play. The game ends when one player has won all of the cards.

## Who won?

The player with all the cards.

Player D


Player A


## MORE TEACHING TOOLS



## Teaching Homophones with Books

Here is a listing of books that can be read to or by children.

Barretta, Gene. Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones. Henry Holt and Co., 2007.20 pp. Grades 1-3.
This is a fun book to use to introduce the concept of homophones. Illustrated in watercolors, the story is told through a letter from Aunt Ant, who has just moved to the zoo, to her friend Deer. She uses many pairs of homophones in her letter as she shares information about the zoo residents: "The giraffe's long neck lets him CHOOSE what he CHEWS."

Homophones used in this book include hear/here, you/ewe, daze/days, horse/hoarse, feat/feet, and twenty-seven other pairs.

Cleary, Brian P. and Brian Gable. How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?: What Are Homonyms and Homophones? First Avenue Editions, 2007. 32 pp. Grades 1-3.

Lots of silliness going on here! Fun rhyme and rhythm come together in sentences such as, "A maid could be made to be very afraid if she heard a big herd on the deck." A good read-aloud.

Gwynne, Fred. A Chocolate Moose for Dinner. Aladdin, 2005. 48 pp. Grades 1-3.

A little girl recounts the things she overhears her parents talking about. Illustrations show what she imagines: an under toe at the beach, the story of the tortoise and the hair, and lions praying on animals. Some of the pages feature puns that children may not understand and that would need to be explained. Select pages could be shown to students to illustrate the homophone pairs moose/ mousse, gorilla/guerilla, pray/prey, hangar/hanger, toe/tow, skull/scull, claws/Claus, and hair/ hare.

Hobbs, James B. Homophones and Homographs: An American Dictionary. 4th ed. McFarland \& Company, Inc., 2006. 376 pp. Grades $6-9$ and teacher reference.

Hobbs started collecting homophones twenty-five years ago and never stopped. This compilation includes over 9,000 homophones plus short definitions. Good reference, plus it offers a challenge: the author will pay $\$ 1$ per homophone that is not listed in this volume.

Kelley, Maria Felicia. Buz Words: Discovering Words in Pairs. April Arts Press, 2006. 29 pp. Grades K-2.
Rhythmic verse makes this a fun read-aloud. Buz, a young boy, learns about word pairs like plane/plain, sun/son, and Buz/buzz while talking with his mother.

## \{Student Record Sheet \}

my List of Homophones
Name:
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

## Tongue Twisters

Everybody loves tongue twisters! All of the twisters in this section contain at least one homophone and are marked Easy, Moderate, or Difficult. To aid you in quickly finding a twister to use in a particular lesson, the homophones used are listed below each tongue twister.

Photocopy the tongue twisters you want to share with your students and try some of these activities:

* Have students underline all the homophones they find, then discuss the words in class.
* Practice enunciation.
* Put the strips in a bag and have each student pull out a twister and recite it.
* Have students choose a set of homophones and write their own tongue twisters.
* Have a contest to see who can say the twisters the fastest!

Easy
Busy buzzing bumble bee.
Homophones used in this tongue twister: bee


Homophones used in this tongue twister: buy, bye, to, want, you


Homophones used in this tongue twister: bear, hair, no, very

Easy


Homophones used in this tongue twister: gnome, knows, no, nose
Easy
The thin thief slid through that thicket over there.
Homophones used in this tongue twister: the, there, through

## Bill will break Blake's black bike's back brake.

Homophones used in this tongue twister: brake, break

Difficult

Homophones used in this tongue twister: in, real, reel, the, we'll, wheel

Difficult


Homophones used in this tongue twister: $I$

Difficult


Homophones used in this tongue twister: choose, clothes

Difficult
Betty Botter bought some butter, "But," said she, "the butter's bitter.
Homophones used in this tongue twister: but, I, in, made, so, some, the

Difficult


Homophones used in this tongue twister: sheik, the (Note that this is often cited as the hardest tongue twister in English!)

# APPENDIGES 



## Appendix B: Crossword Puzzle Answer Keys

Note: Answer keys are arranged alphabetically.


A Scary Story


A Friendly Cowboy


An Interesting Wedding


| $\underline{\text { A }}$ | compliment .. 131, 157, 158 |
| :---: | :---: |
| ad ............................ 32, 145 | course .....119, 157, 207, 212 |
| add ......................... 32, 145 | creak ................ 62, 150, 175 |
| all ................................. 206 | creek ................ 62, 150, 173 |
| all ready ................. 82, 152 |  |
| allowed ........................ 118 | D |
| aloud ............................ 118 | dear ... 63, 147, 149, 175, 212 |
| already .................... 82, 152 | deer ... 63, 147, 149, 175, 212 |
| ant .............. 60, 151, 171, 212 | desert .................... 105, 156 |
| assistance .................... 128 | dessert .................. 105, 156 |
| assistants .................... 128 | die .................. 132, 158, 207 |
| ate ................... 33, 145, 206 | do ........................ 207, 208 |
| aunt ........... 60, 151, 171, 212 | dye ........... 132, 158, 207, 213 |
|  | dyed ............................ 207 |
| B |  |
| bald .............................. 207 | E |
| bare ................... 61, 149, 171 | eight ............... 33, 145, 206 |
| barren ........................ 209 |  |
| bawl .............................. 213 | F |
| be ............. 28, 145, 205, 209 | fair ........................ 106, 155 |
| bear .......... 61, 149, 171, 204, | fare ....................... 106, 155 |
| 207, 209 | feat .................. 107, 155, 157 |
| beat .............................. 207 | feet ... 107, 155, 157, 206, 213 |
| bee .................. 28, 145, 204 | fisher .......................... 205 |
| beet .............................. 213 | fissure ........................ 205 |
| blew ................. 40, 146, 173 | flea ................. 155, 208, 212 |
| blue ................. 40, 146, 173 | flee ................. 155, 208, 212 |
| boar ............................. 209 | flew ............................. 208 |
| bold ............................ 207 | flour ....................... 84, 153 |
| bore ............................. 209 | flower .................... 84, 153 |
| bored .......................... 209 | flue ....................... 208, 213 |
| brake ................ 83, 153, 211 | for .......... 35, 145, 205, 206, |
| break ................ 83, 153, 211 | 207, 209 |
| but .......... 205, 208, 209, 211 | foreword .............. 133, 158 |
| buy .......... 34, 145, 204, 208 | forth ..................... 109, 155 |
| by ..................... 34, 145, 210 | forward ................... 133, 158 |
| bye .................. 34, 145, 204 | foul ................. 108, 156, 212 |
|  | four .................. 35, 145, 213 |
| $\underline{\text { C }}$ | fourth ................... 109, 155 |
| cache ............................ 212 | fowl ................ 108, 156, 212 |
| capital ......................... 129 |  |
| capitol ......................... 129 | $\underline{\text { G }}$ |
| cash .............................. 212 | gait ......................... 64, 177 |
| ceiling ......................... 213 | gate .......................... 64, 175 |
| cell ......................... 97, 154 | gnome ......................... 204 |
| censor ................... 130, 158 | gopher ....................... 205 |
| cent ............ 52, 111, 146, 173 | grate ........................ 134, 158 |
| chews ........................... 207 | great ...................... 134, 158 |
| choose ................... 207, 211 | grisly ............................ 212 |
| close ..................... 104, 155 | grizzly .......................... 212 |
| clothes ............ 104, 155, 211 |  |
| coarse ...... 119, 157, 207, 212 | H |
| complement.. 131, 157, 158 | hair ...................... 204, 212 |


| e(s) .......... 206 , 212, 213 | missed .................... 93, 152 |
| :---: | :---: |
| he'd ............................. 208 | mist ................. 93, 152, 208 |
| ear ......... 36, 145, 148, 206 | morn .......................... 209 |
| eard ...................... 85, 152 | mourning ................... 213 |
| herd ........................ 85, 152 | must ............................ 207 |
| here ................. 36, 145, 148 |  |
| hi ...................... 41, 146, 177 | N |
| high .................. 41, 146, 177 | naval ............................. 213 |
| him ............................. 209 | need ............................ 209 |
| hoarse ...... 86, 152, 206, 212 | new ................. 44, 146, 210 |
| hole .......... 42, 146, 205, 213 | night ........ 94, 153, 209, 212 |
| horse ................ 86, 152, 212 | no ........... 45, 148, 204, 209 |
| hour ....................... 48, 148 | $\begin{array}{ll} \text { nose ................. 46, 147, } 204 \\ \text { not } 47 & 47 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| I | 212 |
| 206, 210, 211 | $\underline{\mathrm{O}}$ |
| idle ................. 135, 158, 212 | one ... 66, 149, 179, 206, 209 |
| idol ................. 135, 158, 212 | or .................. 205, 207, 209 |
| in ................... 205, 208, 211 | our .......................... 48, 148 |
| it's ................... 87, 152, 209 |  |
| its ........................... 87, 152 | $\underline{\text { P }}$ |
|  | pail ..... 68, 150, 181, 212, 213 |
| $\underline{\mathbf{K}}$ | pair .... 67, 146, 149, 181, 212 |
| knew ......................44, 146 | pale .... 68, 150, 181, 212, 213 |
| knight ...... 94, 153, 212, 213 | pare .............................. 67 |
| knot ................. 47, 148, 212 | passed ..................... 69, 151 |
| know ...................... 45, 148 | past .........................69, 151 |
| knows ............. 46, 147, 204 | patience ......... 122, 157, 213 |
|  | patients ............... 122, 157 |
| $\underline{L}$ | peace ...................... 95, 154 |
| lead ......................... 88, 154 | peak ....................... 137, 212 |
| led .......................... 88, 154 | pear .......... 67, 146, 149, 181, |
| lessen .................... 120, 157 | 212, 213 |
| lesson .................... 120, 157 | pedal ...................... 136, 158 |
| loan ........................ 89, 153 | peddle ................... 136, 158 |
| lone ........................ 89, 153 | peek ....................... 137, 212 |
|  | petal ...................... 136, 158 |
| M |  |
| made ............... 90, 154, 211 | pigeons ....................... 207 |
| maid ...................... 90, 154 | piece ............... 95, 154, 206 |
| mail .................. 91, 153, 213 | plain ....................... 96, 153 |
| male ........................ 91, 153 | plane ...................... 96, 153 |
| marry .............. 65, 149, 177 | pole ................ 138, 158, 207 |
| Mary ............... 65, 149, 205 | poll ....................... 138, 158 |
| may be ............ 92, 154, 205 | principal ....... 123, 157, 213 |
| maybe ............. 92, 154, 205 | principle .............. 123, 157 |
| meat ......... 43, 148, 179, 212 |  |
| medal(s) ........ 121, 157, 210 | R |
| meet ......... 43, 148, 179, 212 | read .................. 37, 145, 213 |
| merry ............... 65, 149, 177 | real .................. 124, 157, 211 |
| metal ............... 121, 157, 210 | red ........................... 37, 145 |
| miner .......................... 212 | reel .................. 124, 157, 211 |
|  | reigned |

## Appendix D: Mega-List of Homophones

As you look through this homophones list, keep in mind that some words may be homophones only in certain areas. For example, merry and Mary sound alike in many regions, but not in others. If you disagree with a homophone set, feel free to ignore it. It may not be a homophone in your area, but it is somewhere else!

| A | ariel/aerial | basis/bases | bore/boar |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Abel/able | ark/arc | bask/basque | bored/board |
| accede/exceed | arrant/errant | bass/base | born/borne |
| accept/except | ascent/assent | baste/based | borough/burro/burrow |
| acclamation/acclimation | assistance/assistants | bate/bait | bough/bow |
| acts/ax | ate/eight | bated/baited | bouillon/bullion |
| ad/add | atom/Adam | bawl/ball | boulder/bolder |
| Adam/atom | auger/augur | bawled/bald/balled | bow/beau |
| addition/edition | aunt/ant | bazaar/bizarre | bow/bough |
| adds/adz/ads | aural/oral | be/bee | bowed/bode |
| adduce/educe | aureole/oriole | beach/beech | bowled/bold |
| adherence/adherents | away/aweigh | bear/bare | boy/buoy |
| adieu/ado | awl/all | beat/beet | braid/brayed |
| ads/adds/adz | ax/acts | beau/bow | braise/brays |
| aerial/ariel | axel/axle | bee/be | brake/break |
| affect/effect | axes/axis | beech/beach | brayed/braid |
| affected/effected | aye/eye/I | been/bin | brays/braise |
| affects/effects | ayes/eyes | beer/bier | breach/breech |
| afterward/afterword |  | beet/beat | bread/bred |
| aid/aide | B | bell/belle | break/brake |
| ail/ale | baa/bah | berry/bury | bred/bread |
| air/heir/err | baal/bail/bale | berth/birth | breech/breach |
| aisle/isle/I'll | babble/Babel | better/bettor | brewed/brood |
| ale/ail | bad/bade | bib/bibb | brews/bruise |
| all ready/already | bah/baa | bier/beer | bridal/bridle |
| all together/altogether | bail/bale/baal | bight/bite/byte | broach/brooch |
| all ways/always | bait/bate | billed/build | brood/brewed |
| all/awl | baited/bated | bin/been | brows/browse |
| allowed/aloud | bald/balled/bawled | bird/burred | bruise/brews |
| allude/elude | bale/baal/bail | birth/berth | brut/brute |
| alluded/eluded | ball/bawl | bite/byte/bight | build/billed |
| allusion/illusion | balled/bawled/bald | bizarre/bazaar | bullion/bouillon |
| allusive/elusive/illusive | balm/bomb/bombe | blew/blue | buoy/boy |
| aloud/allowed | band/banned | bloc/block | burger/burgher |
| already/all ready | bard/barred | blue/blew | burred/bird |
| altar/alter | bare/bear | boar/bore | burro/burrow/borough |
| altogether/all together | baron/barren | board/bored | bury/berry |
| always/all ways | barred/bard | boarder/border | bussed/bust |
| amend/emend | barren/baron | bode/bowed | but/butt |
| analyst/annalist | basal/basil | bold/bowled | buy/by/bye |
| ant/aunt | base/bass | bolder/boulder | byte/bight/bite |
| apatite/appetite | based/baste | bomb/bombe/balm |  |
| apprise/apprize | bases/basis | bootie/booty |  |
| arc/ark | basi1/basal | border/boarder | cache/cash |

## Put some fun in your language arts lessons!

This book makes homophones * fin to learn

* ersy to understand, and
* painless to put into practice.

All Abourt Honrephovica helps you teach with tave. Clarify homophones for your stedents wihh this

Homophones are words that sound alike but are spelhed differently.

Here't a sampling of whar you II find inside:


Workshects


Graphic Organizers


Crossword Puzales


