

**Université de Béjaia**  
**Faculté des Lettres et des Langues**  
**Département de Français**

**Module : English**

**Level : 3<sup>rd</sup> year**

**Homophones, Homographs, and Homonyms**

**Homophones** are words that are pronounced the same, but have different meanings and spelling. For instance, tale (a story) and tail (of an animal) are homophones.

**Examples:**

- bare – bear
- board – bored
- pray – prey
- cent – scent
- doe (female deer) – dough (bake into bread)
- meet – meat
- peace – piece

**Homographs** are words that are spelled the same, but have different meanings. For example:

- close /kloʊz/ (to shut) – close /kloʊs/ (nearby)
- bass /beɪs/ (lowest tone) – bass /bæs/ (fish)
- bow /baʊ/ (bend forward) – bow /boʊ/ (weapon for shooting arrows)
- lead /li:d/ (to go in front of) – lead /led/ (a metal)
- tear /ter/ (v) – tear /tɪr/ (n)
- wind /waɪnd/ (have many bends and twists) – wind /wɪnd/ (a gust of air)

**Homonyms** are a combination of both homophones and homographs. They are therefore pronounced and spelled the same, but have different meanings. In the sentence, “The baseball pitcher drank a pitcher of water.”, the first word pitcher means the player in baseball who throws the ball to the batter and the second one means a container for holding and pouring liquids.

**Examples of homonyms:**

- pen (writing instrument) – pen (enclosure for animal)
- spring (a season) – spring (coiled metal)
- bear (to endure) – bear (animal)
- bank (financial establishment) – bank (the slope bordering a river)
- bright (smart) – bright (filled with light)

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**Activity: Choose the correct word to complete sentence.**

1. Alex is going to (wear, ware) his work boots today.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez like to work in (there, they're, their) garden.
3. Humans have hands. Dogs have (paws, pause).
4. I heard that that book was (banned, band) from our school district.
5. I am very advanced in math, so I often get (bored, board) in class.
6. We would like to purchase (to, too, two) popsicles.
7. I would rather have an apple than a (pear, pair, pare).
8. I hope you are not going to (waist, waste) this opportunity.
9. For a rough (draft, draught), her work was fairly polished.
10. I think that blouse really (complements, compliments) your eyes.