

## VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

When learning vocabulary at a more advanced level of English, it is important to be aware that words frequently have more than one meaning, and the meaning of a word is determined by the context in which it appears or can be determined in relation to other words.

The meaning of a word like 'hot' is understood in the context of a word like 'cold' because they are opposites (antonyms). These same words, however, would be similar in meaning (synonyms) in the context of 'warm' and 'cool', respectively.

When determining the meaning of words, which have either the same pronunciation or the same spelling, namely **homonyms**, context plays an important role.

## HOMONYMS — HOMOGRAPHS AND HOMOPHONES

**Homonym** is generally used to describe a word, which has the same spelling and pronunciation as another, for example 'the second **row** of seats in the cinema' and '**row** the boat to shore'. The context tells us that **row** has two different meanings.

Homonyms are often differentiated according to whether the pair or set of words has the same spelling or pronunciation, but in all cases the meaning is determined from the context, as is their spelling and pronunciation.

If the words have the same **spelling**, but differ in pronunciation and meaning, they are called **homographs**.

For example:

The *Study English* program was recorded before a **live** audience.

- **live** in this context is pronounced /laɪv/, and is an adjective describing 'audience' and means 'is being recorded while the program is happening, and broadcast at a later time'

Where does she **live**?

**live** in this context is pronounced /lɪv/, and is the verb of the subject 'she'.

### STUDY TIPS

When learning new vocabulary, it is beneficial to learn the meaning of words in the various contexts they appear. This makes it easier to remember the word and its meaning.

So, when reading and listening be aware how the words are being used in different contexts, and add examples of any new contexts to your vocabulary notebook.

If the words are **pronounced** the same, but differ in spelling and meaning, they are called **homophones**.

For example:

Your concert tickets are in the **mail**.  
Only **male** students participated in the survey.

- **mail** and **male** are pronounced the same /meɪl/, but mean two different things, i.e. 'the service that delivers letters' and 'the opposite of female', respectively.

## HOMOGRAPHS

Here is a list of the more common homographs.

Homograph	Pronunciation	Context
Spelling		
accent	/æk'sɒnt/ – verb /'æksɒnt/ – noun	When pronouncing the word 'accent', it's important to <b>accent</b> the second syllable. John spoke Chinese with a strong English <b>accent</b> .
approximate	/ə'prɒksəmeɪt/ – verb /ə'prɒksəmət/ – adjective	This shade of blue will <b>approximate</b> the colour of the fabric, but we can't match it exactly.  An <b>approximate</b> cost of building the tunnel is \$10 billion.
associate	/ə'soʊʃieɪt/ – verb /ə'soʊʃiət/ – adjective	What do you <b>associate</b> this fashion label with – style or comfort?  He is the <b>associate</b> editor of the newspaper.
bow	/baʊ/ – verb and noun /boʊ/ – noun	Please <b>bow</b> on entering the temple. After his brilliant performance, John gave a <b>bow</b> . She pinned a <b>bow</b> in her hair.
close	/kloʊz/ – verb /kloʊs/ – adjective	<b>Close</b> the window, please. It's getting cold.  Her family lives <b>close</b> to the city.
conduct	/kən'dɒkt/ – verb /'kɒndɒkt/ – noun	The department will <b>conduct</b> an inquiry into the theft of the property. His <b>conduct</b> at the party was appalling.
conflict	/kən'flɒkt/ – verb /'kɒnflɒkt/ – noun	John's interests unfortunately <b>conflict</b> with the interests of the company.  John's interests came into <b>conflict</b> with management.



# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Homograph Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
content	/ˈkɒntɛnt/ – noun /kənˈtɛnt/ – adjective	The <b>content</b> of that package was suspect.  She was <b>content</b> with the decision they reached.
contest	/kənˈtɛst/ – verb /ˈkɒntɛst/ – noun	Did your brother <b>contest</b> your father's will?  Did you enter the writing <b>contest</b> in the Learning Centre?
contract	/kənˈtrækt/ – verb /ˈkɒntrækt/ – noun	Did John <b>contract</b> malaria in Africa? Jane signed a <b>contract</b> with her new employer.
contrast	/kənˈtrast/ – verb /ˈkɒntrast/ – noun	The instructions said to <b>contrast</b> the present situation with the past. Jane's assessment of the situation was in stark <b>contrast</b> to the truth.
converse	/kənˈvɜːs/ – verb /ˈkɒnvɜːs/ – noun	The teacher requested they <b>converse</b> in English. They thought the new bridge would ease the traffic, but the <b>converse</b> was in fact true.
convert	/kənˈvɜːt/ – verb /ˈkɒnvɜːt/ – noun	Will you <b>convert</b> my Australian dollars into yen please? After attending the political rally, he became a <b>convert</b> to the new party.
delegate	/ˈdɛləʒeɪt/ – verb /ˈdɛləʒət/ – noun	If he is to survive in his job, he will need to <b>delegate</b> some of his work. The school only sent one <b>delegate</b> to the conference.
deliberate	/dɛˈlɪbəreɪt/ – verb /dɛˈlɪbərət/ – adjective	The barrister feels the jury will not <b>deliberate</b> for long. The jurors felt the attack was <b>deliberate</b> .
elaborate	/əˈlæbəreɪt/ – verb /əˈlæbərət/ – adjective	The interviewer asked me to <b>elaborate</b> on my answer. That was an <b>elaborate</b> scheme he devised for recycling waste.
export	/ɛkˈspɔːt/ – verb /ˈɛkspɔːt/ – noun	The state will <b>export</b> 40% of its steel to Asia.  The steel is packaged for <b>export</b> to Asia.
extract	/ɛkˈstrækt/ – verb /ˈɛkstrækt/ – noun	Use the juicer to <b>extract</b> the juice from the fruit, please. That <b>extract</b> is taken from the <i>Study English – IELTS Preparation Series One</i> book.



# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Homograph	Pronunciation	Context
<b>Spelling</b>		
graduate	/ˈgrædʒueɪt/ – verb /ˈgrædʒuət/ – noun	He will <b>graduate</b> with a Diploma in Business from Insearch, UTS in early spring. He is a business <b>graduate</b> from Insearch, UTS.
import	/ɪmˈpɔːt/ – verb /ɪmˈpɔːt/ – noun	China will <b>import</b> coal and uranium from Australia. The <b>import</b> of coal and uranium earns millions of dollars for the Australian economy.
invalid	/ɪnˈvælɪd/ – noun /ɪnˈvæləd/ – adjective	It was unfortunate that she became an <b>invalid</b> after the accident. John’s visa was <b>invalid</b> for travel in China.
lead	/liːd/ – verb /lɪd/ – noun	Jane will <b>lead</b> the group for the trek in Nepal. Pb is the chemical symbol for <b>lead</b> .
live	/lɪv/ – verb /laɪv/ – adjective	They want to <b>live</b> by the sea. There will be <b>live</b> coverage from Wimbledon.
permit	/pəˈmɪt/ – verb /pəˈmɪt/ – noun	Check with the neighbours whether they’ll <b>permit</b> you to hold the party late into the night. Your parking <b>permit</b> expires next month.
present	/prɪˈzɛnt/ – verb /prɪˈzɛnt/ – noun, adjective	The Director of Studies will <b>present</b> the awards at the graduation ceremony. All the children received a <b>present</b> from their father when he returned from the business trip.
produce	/prəˈdʒʊs/ – verb /prəˈdʒʊs/ – noun	They will <b>produce</b> many valuable goods for export. Local <b>produce</b> is sold at the market.
progress	/prəˈgrɛs/ – verb /prəˈgrɛs/ – noun	Students using <i>Study English</i> can <b>progress</b> at their own speed. The students made steady <b>progress</b> in their five-week English program.
project	/prəˈdʒɛkt/ – verb /prəˈdʒɛkt/ – noun	The machine will <b>project</b> the image onto the screen. Students are required to do a research <b>project</b> for their final assignment.
record	/rɪˈkɔːd/ – verb /rɪˈkɔːd/ – noun	Teachers <b>record</b> students’ marks on the database. A <b>record</b> of students’ marks is always kept on file.



Homograph Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
refill	/ri'fɪl/ – verb /'rifɪl/ – noun	Can I <b>refill</b> your glass? Would you like a <b>refill</b> ?
reject	/rə'ɪdʒekt/ – verb /'ri:ɪdʒekt/ – noun	The quality control department will <b>reject</b> the computers because of faulty wiring. That computer will be a <b>reject</b> because of the faulty wiring.
separate	/'sɛpəreɪt/ – verb /'sɛprət/ – adjective	Teachers will need to <b>separate</b> the top-achieving students. There will be a <b>separate</b> writing class to accommodate the general training students.
survey	/sʌ'veɪ/ – verb /'sʌveɪ/ – noun	The geologists will <b>survey</b> the land to assess future possibilities. The marketing department conducted a <b>survey</b> on their latest product to assess customer satisfaction.
suspect	/sə'spɪkt/ – verb /'sʌspɪkt/ – noun	The mother did not <b>suspect</b> her daughter of truancy. The 18-year-old was a <b>suspect</b> in the crime.
wind	/waɪnd/ – verb /wɪnd/ – noun	The two main streets in the resort town <b>wind</b> their way to the ocean. The weather bureau is forecasting a strong southerly <b>wind</b> this afternoon.

## HOMOPHONES

Here is a list of the more common homophones.

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
aid aide	/eɪd/	Humanitarian <b>aid</b> was provided to the victims of the tsunami disaster. When the crisis erupted, the president summoned her <b>aide</b> .
air heir	/ɛə/	The summer rain cooled the <b>air</b> substantially. The <b>heir</b> to the company's fortune has not been decided.
allowed aloud	/ə'laʊd/	The use of a dictionary is not <b>allowed</b> during the IELTS test. The questions were read <b>aloud</b> for all to hear.



# STUDY ENGLISH

## IELTS PREPARATION

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
ascent assent	/ə'sɪnt/	They began their <b>ascent</b> of Mount Everest as dawn broke. The managing director gave his <b>assent</b> to the proposed construction of the tunnel.
bare bear	/bɪə/	After the fire, the countryside was completely <b>bare</b> . Aunt Mary's birthday card greeting will <b>bear</b> the Queen's seal because she turned 100. That particular species of <b>bear</b> is mainly found in the North Pole.
base bass	/beɪs/	The bushwalk starts at the <b>base</b> of the mountains. The quartet was brilliant except for the <b>bass</b> player who was suffering from the flu.
bean been	/bin/	The black <b>bean</b> is widely used to prepare Indian dishes. They've <b>been</b> to the four corners of the Earth.
beat beet	/bit/	Every week I take all my Persian rugs out onto the balcony and <b>beat</b> them till they're clean. <b>Beet</b> is a root plant from which sugar is made.
berth birth	/bɜːθ/	A <b>berth</b> was made vacant in the harbour for the luxury cruise liner. They celebrated the <b>birth</b> of their second child.
bite byte	/baɪt/	If provoked some dogs will <b>bite</b> . Computer buffs will know that a <b>byte</b> is a unit of storage.
blew blue	/blu/	The strong wind <b>blew</b> all night. After the storm cleared the sky turned <b>blue</b> .
break brake	/breɪk/	Did anything <b>break</b> during the hailstorm? Put the <b>brake</b> on so the car doesn't roll.
buy by bye	/baɪ/	You need to <b>buy</b> a new jacket. His shoes are <b>by</b> the door. <b>Bye!</b> I'll see you tomorrow.
canvas canvass	/'kænvəs/	They used <b>canvas</b> to make the tent so it'll be strong. They will <b>canvass</b> the area tomorrow for support.



# STUDY ENGLISH

## IELTS PREPARATION

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
carrot carat	/'kærət/	<b>Carrot</b> , an orange root vegetable, is used in many of the spicy dishes. On her engagement she received an 18- <b>carat</b> gold ring.
ceiling sealing	/'silɪŋ/	The room was quite old – the paint was peeling off the walls and <b>ceiling</b> . <b>Sealing</b> the package was part of the procedure.
cell sell	/sɛl/	The prisoner was taken to his <b>cell</b> . They were advised to <b>sell</b> their stocks.
cent scent sent	/sɛnt/	Luckily, John didn't have to pay a <b>cent</b> for the overdue DVDs. The room was filled with the <b>scent</b> of roses. The parcel was <b>sent</b> by courier.
cereal serial	/'sɛəriəl/	The children usually have a bowl of <b>cereal</b> for breakfast. Her popular novel will be shown as a <b>serial</b> next season on ABC television.
check cheque	/'tʃɛk/	It's important to <b>check</b> whether you've locked the door when leaving. He wrote a <b>cheque</b> for \$500.
cite site sight	/'saɪt/	Don't forget to <b>cite</b> your sources at the end of your essay. The tour will include the most popular <b>site</b> , the Great Wall of China. His <b>sight</b> has been slowly deteriorating.
coarse course	/'kɔ:s/	<b>Coarse</b> salt is often used for preserving foods. He will need to take an accounting <b>course</b> to complete his business degree.
complement compliment	/'kɔ:pləmənt/	The players <b>complement</b> each other, so they stand a good chance of winning the championship. She paid him a great <b>compliment</b> by acknowledging his contribution.
council counsel	/'kaʊnsəl/	The local <b>council</b> voted in favour of the development of the massive shopping centre complex. The student accepted the adviser's <b>counsel</b> .
dependant dependent	/'dɛpɛndənt/	The <b>dependant</b> , to whom they were referring, was Smith's child. The success of their economy is <b>dependent</b> on exports.



Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
dew due	/dju/	The lawns were covered with morning <b>dew</b> . Our assignment is <b>due</b> Monday morning.
die dye	/daɪ/	The man will <b>die</b> if help doesn't come soon. In the final stage, it is necessary to <b>dye</b> the fabric green.
elicit illicit	/ə'liʃət/	The radio announcer deliberately made a disparaging remark to <b>elicit</b> a response from his listeners. The <b>illicit</b> drugs were found during the police raid.
fair fare	/fɛə/	Students felt the final test was <b>fair</b> . There was some discussion about increasing the <b>fare</b> for student bus tickets.
feat feet	/fi:t/	The engineering of the Sydney Opera House is an amazing <b>feat</b> . His <b>feet</b> were sore after running the marathon.
flour flower	/'flaʊə/	The recipe calls for two cups of <b>flour</b> . The species of cactus has a delicate yellow <b>flower</b> .
for fore four	/fɔ:/	There are some books waiting <b>for</b> you at reception. The department restructure came to the <b>fore</b> again at last week's meeting. There are <b>four</b> students who will resit the test.
gate gait	/geɪt/	The <b>gate</b> opens at exactly 6:00 am. The doctor became concerned because of her peculiar <b>gait</b> . She could hardly walk.
grease Greece	/grɪs/	The mechanic's clothes were covered in <b>grease</b> . I'm planning on going to <b>Greece</b> for my next holiday.
grate great	/greɪt/	Could you <b>grate</b> some ginger onto the fish please? The <b>great</b> masterpieces always attract the biggest crowds.
groan grown	/groʊn/	We knew Jane was alive when she began to <b>groan</b> from under the rubble. The rosemary plant has <b>grown</b> into a huge bush.



Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
hall haul	/hɑːl/	The classroom is located down the <b>hall</b> and to the right. We had to <b>haul</b> the recording equipment from one end of the building to the other.
hangar hanger	/'hæŋə/	The old Boeing 747 was dispatched to the <b>hangar</b> for storage. There is a <b>hanger</b> on the rack for your coat.
heal heel	/hiːl/	Jane was advised that it would take at least three months for her arm to <b>heal</b> after the fall. The <b>heel</b> of her shoe got caught between the grooves of the escalator.
hear here	/hɪə/	She was too upset to <b>hear</b> what I was saying. The photocopying machine is <b>here</b> on the left.
heroin heroine	/'hɪərəweɪn/	The article discussed the dangers surrounding the use of <b>heroin</b> - an illegal drug. Jane plays the <b>heroine</b> in the film.
higher hire	/'haɪə/	The <b>higher</b> the mountain, the greater the challenge becomes. You can <b>hire</b> a car at the airport.
him hymn	/hɪm/	John reprimanded <b>him</b> for behaving unprofessionally. The religious songs are found in the <b>hymn</b> book.
hole whole	/hoʊl/	To reach water they had to dig a deep <b>hole</b> in the ground. It will take the <b>whole</b> day to reach that little outback town.
hour our	/'aʊə/	I will need an <b>hour</b> of your time to complete the survey. <b>Our</b> university will be hosting the conference this year.
idle idol	/'aɪdl/	Since the factory closed down, the workers have been <b>idle</b> . After his great win at Wimbledon, he'll no doubt become the next tennis <b>idol</b> .
key quay	/ki/	They found a spare <b>key</b> for the storeroom. We decided the best place to meet would be on the <b>quay</b> , down by the harbour.



# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
knew new	/nju/	He <b>knew</b> there would be significant changes to the programme. A <b>new</b> programme will be introduced in the next semester.
knot not	/nɒt/	The rope was tied in a <b>knot</b> . The boat was <b>not</b> tied to the wharf.
know no	/noʊ/	Did you <b>know</b> he was in town visiting friends? <b>No</b> , I didn't know he was visiting his friends.
knows nose	/noʊz/	She <b>knows</b> the code to the building. His <b>nose</b> was broken during the football match.
lessen lesson	/'lɛsən/	Installing a safety device will <b>lessen</b> the risk of injury. The <b>lesson</b> on the environment was interesting.
lightning lightening	/'laɪtnɪŋ/	They forecasted rain with thunder and <b>lightning</b> . <b>Lightening</b> the colour will provide you with the shade required.
loan lone	/loʊn/	John took out a <b>loan</b> to start up his business. A <b>lone</b> man was seen waiting at the bus stop in the early hours of the morning.
mail male	/meɪl/	The <b>mail</b> is delivered twice a day. The survey focussed on <b>male</b> students.
mat matt	/mæt/	There was a small <b>mat</b> just outside the front door of the house. All the photographs had a <b>matt</b> finish.
meat meet	/mit/	The main meal consisted of <b>meat</b> , potatoes, and a vegetable. We can <b>meet</b> at the information desk at noon.
miner minor	/'maɪnə/	The <b>miner's</b> health was inevitably affected working such long hours underground. Only <b>minor</b> changes were made to the film festival program.
missed mist	/mɪst/	She <b>missed</b> her bus this morning. The mountains are always shrouded in a bluish <b>mist</b> .
morning mourning	/'mɔːnɪŋ/	The test was scheduled for Saturday <b>morning</b> . The children were still <b>mourning</b> the death of their pet dog.



Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
muscle mussel	/ˈmʌsəl/	She strained her thigh <b>muscle</b> running the marathon. The <b>mussel</b> dish wasn't very tasty, even though I love shellfish.
naval navel	/ˈneɪvəl/	The <b>naval</b> officer escorted guests to the base. The teacher asked the student to point to the <b>navel</b> on the body chart.
need knead	/nid/	They will <b>need</b> to order their tickets for the flight. The baker will <b>knead</b> the dough for the bread.
oar or ore	/ɔː/	The <b>oar</b> was damaged so they couldn't row the boat. They had a choice of either going on an excursion <b>or</b> watching a movie. The country was rich in iron <b>ore</b> .
one won	/wʌn/	John passed the test by <b>one</b> mark. The national team <b>won</b> Thursday's football match.
pail pale	/peɪl/	The children picked a <b>pail</b> of strawberries. He arrived at school looking rather <b>pale</b> .
pain pane	/peɪn/	Susan was in a lot of <b>pain</b> after twisting her ankle. The <b>pane</b> of glass was completely shattered when hit by the ball.
pair pare pear	/pɛə/	He also packed another <b>pair</b> of trousers for the trip. Use this knife to <b>pare</b> the apple. They had a juicy <b>pear</b> for dessert.
peace piece	/pis/	They were hopeful the negotiated treaty would bring <b>peace</b> . Margaret ordered a <b>piece</b> of pie with her coffee.
pedal peddle	/ˈpɛdl/	The <b>pedal</b> on the bike was repaired. Harry was looking for someone to <b>peddle</b> his illegal drugs.
pigeon pidgin	/ˈpɪdʒən/	The carrier <b>pigeon</b> was used to relay messages during World War I. There is a form of language called <b>pidgin</b> English.
pier peer	/pɛə/	They will build a theatre on the abandoned <b>pier</b> . The security guard tried to <b>peer</b> into the warehouse window.



# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
plain plane	/pleɪn/	The décor of the house was <b>plain</b> and simple. The <b>plane</b> was ready for take off.
pole poll	/pəʊl/	He used a <b>pole</b> to get the kite out of the tree. The television station conducted a <b>poll</b> into the popularity of its evening programs.
practice practise	/'præktəs/	The listening <b>practice</b> tests are available in the library. You can <b>practise</b> the listening tests in the library.
prays preys praise	/preɪz/	She <b>prays</b> every morning in the village chapel. The eagle <b>preys</b> on small animals. The coach was full of <b>praise</b> for his players after their victory.
principal principle	/'prɪnsəpəl/	His <b>principal</b> concern was for the safety of the children. Students only needed to remember the first <b>principle</b> for the science test.
queue cue	/kju:/	How long did you wait in the <b>queue</b> ? The prompt gave the actor the <b>cue</b> to begin his speech.
rain rein reign	/reɪn/	The <b>rain</b> was a welcome sight after two years of severe drought. Pull on the right <b>rein</b> if you want the horse to turn right. The <b>reign</b> of their first CEO lasted 10 years.
raise rays	/reɪz/	The government needs to <b>raise</b> people's standard of living. Doctors warn about exposure to ultraviolet <b>rays</b> .
real reel	/ri:l/	The devastation of the tsunami was <b>real</b> . So you weren't dreaming. There was only one <b>reel</b> of film to view.
right rite write	/raɪt/	She guessed the <b>right</b> answer. A religious ceremony, which is performed within a particular society, is sometimes called a <b>rite</b> . You are required to <b>write</b> a 250 word essay.



# STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
road rode rowed	/rɒd/	Because of heavy rain, the <b>road</b> was quite slippery. The group <b>rode</b> their horses through the bush on the excursion. The team <b>rowed</b> brilliantly to win the regatta championship.
roll role	/rɒl/	The spectators watched the golf ball <b>roll</b> successfully into the 9 <sup>th</sup> hole, giving the competitor an advantage. Andrew was given the lead <b>role</b> in the new musical.
rye wry	/raɪ/	<b>Rye</b> is one of their staple crops. She gave her sister a <b>wry</b> smile knowing full well that Shirley was in deep trouble.
sail sale	/seɪl/	The tall ships will <b>sail</b> into the harbour early this afternoon. There was a huge <b>sale</b> in all shops through June and July.
scene seen	/siːn/	The <b>scene</b> of devastation caused by the hurricane was horrifying. They were nowhere to be <b>seen</b> after the destruction.
seas sees seize	/siːz/	Their adventure consisted of sailing the seven <b>seas</b> . He <b>sees</b> the issue of unemployment in a different light. Did Sanjay <b>seize</b> the opportunity to study at INSEARCH UTS?
sew so sow	/soʊ/	I will <b>sew</b> the button on your shirt. The meeting is on Thursday, <b>so</b> the proposal will need to be ready by then. Farmers in tropical Asia will <b>sow</b> three crops of rice in a year.
soar sore	/sɔːr/	We watched the eagle <b>soar</b> into the sky. My arm was <b>sore</b> after the fall.
sole soul	/soʊl/	Mary had <b>sole</b> responsibility for the children. Her heart and <b>soul</b> went into writing the book.
some sum	/sʌm/	<b>Some</b> of the biscuits were eaten. The <b>sum</b> total of the products is \$50.
son sun	/sʌn/	Their <b>son</b> is now living in China. The <b>sun</b> finally appeared after three days of heavy rain.



Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
stair stare	/stə/	Timothy sat waiting for Jill on the top <b>stair</b> , outside her front door. It is impolite to <b>stare</b> .
stationary stationery	/ˈsteɪənəri/ or /ˈsteɪənəri/	The cars were <b>stationary</b> for a long while after the accident on the highway. The <b>stationery</b> can be purchased from the newsagent.
stake steak	/steɪk/	John holds a 20% <b>stake</b> in the business. She ordered <b>steak</b> for her meal.
steal steel	/stiːl/	How did they manage to <b>steal</b> the equipment? They will be exporting <b>steel</b> with the new agreement.
suite sweet	/swiːt/	The presidential <b>suite</b> in the new Hilton hotel is spectacular. The cake was too <b>sweet</b> for my liking.
Sunday sundae	/ˈsʌndeɪ/	The picnic was scheduled for <b>Sunday</b> . The children enjoyed their chocolate <b>sundae</b> ice cream soda.
tail tale	/teɪl/	The possum has a bushy <b>tail</b> . She told a fascinating <b>tale</b> about the missing lantern.
taught taut	/tɔːt/	Rita <b>taught</b> English in China for many years. The tight rope on which the trapeze artist performed was pulled <b>taut</b> .
tear tier	/tɪə/	The story brought a <b>tear</b> to my eye. An order was placed for a four- <b>tier</b> wedding cake.
there their they're	/ðeə/	<b>There</b> were only two places available on the program. <b>Their</b> program of study required a prerequisite of two accounting courses. <b>They're</b> accepted into the diploma program.
threw through	/θruː/	Steve <b>threw</b> the cricket ball at great speed. The crowd stampeded <b>through</b> the gates.
tire tyre	/ˈtaɪə/	I never seem to <b>tire</b> of the classics. It was sheer luck that someone was on hand to help replace the flat <b>tyre</b> .



Homophone Spelling	Pronunciation	Context
toe tow	/toʊ/	John stubbed his <b>toe</b> on the rock. The mechanic will <b>tow</b> the car to the garage.
to too two	/tu/	I will be driving <b>to</b> the coast rather than flying. The water is <b>too</b> cold to swim in. I have only <b>two</b> brothers.
vain vein	/veɪn/	The team worked in <b>vain</b> to save the accident victim. The doctor injected the penicillin into a <b>vein</b> in his left arm.
waist waste	/weɪst/	Her clothing was now tight around the <b>waist</b> . They disposed of their <b>waste</b> thoughtfully.
wait weight	/weɪt/	You will need to <b>wait</b> for the test results. The questionnaire asked for the height and <b>weight</b> of the participant.
wave waive	/weɪv/	It was a two metre <b>wave</b> that hit the fishermen. A decision was reached to <b>waive</b> a portion of the fees.
way weigh	/weɪ/	The intensive language program was a good <b>way</b> to improve my Japanese. The shop assistant will <b>weigh</b> your produce.
weak week	/wik/	It was to be expected he would be <b>weak</b> after the operation. There was only a <b>week</b> left before the start of the term.
weather whether	/'wðə/	<b>Weather</b> permitting I'll go on the bushwalk. I shall be going on the bushwalk <b>whether</b> you like it or not.
wet whet	/wɛt/	The ground is quite <b>wet</b> from all the rain we've had. All the dishes on the menu will <b>whet</b> your appetite.
which witch	/wɪtʃ/	<b>Which</b> road will give me access to the property? She dressed as a <b>witch</b> for the Halloween party.
wrote rote	/roʊt/	He <b>wrote</b> his novel while on leave in Italy. The children were taught to learn by <b>rote</b> .
your you're	/jʊr/	<b>Your</b> tickets will be available on Friday. <b>You're</b> welcome to pick up your tickets on Friday.