

Words that sound the same, but are spelled differently and have different meanings are called homophones. Choose the correct word in these pairs of homophones.

1. My mother wants to (die/dye) her hair now that it has turned gray.
2. I can't believe I (ate/eight) the whole cake!
3. The baseball player (through/threw) the ball to home plate.
4. Rotten eggs have a very (foul/fowl) smell.
5. My old cat finally (died/dyed) last week.
6. My (ate/eight) year old nephew is coming to stay with me for a week.
7. My dad has a farm where he raises pigs and (foul/fowl).
8. There should be (mower/more) to life than just work.
9. Andy (road/rode) his bike to school every day.
10. A (profit/prophet) is someone who can tell about the future.
11. The (rode/road) was slick after it rained.
12. A company must make a good (profit/prophet) to keep the stockholders happy.
13. Jim (acts/ax) like a two year old sometimes.
14. The happy couple walked down the (isle/aisle) with big smiles on their face.
15. That (band/banned) was (band/banned) from playing because their songs had lewd lyrics.
16. James was in a (days/daze) after spending all afternoon laying in the sun.
17. William is the (heir/air) to the throne.
18. The taxi driver demanded his (fair/fare) from the passenger who claimed he couldn't pay.
19. I haven't (scene/seen) traffic like this since the formula one race was in town.
20. The perpetrator left the (scene/seen) of the crime before the police arrived.
21. You aren't (allowed/aloud) to enter the theatre through the back door unless you have a backstage pass.
22. The teacher asked the children to read their stories (allowed/aloud).
23. You shouldn't walk in the woods with (bear/bare) feet.
24. (Bear/bare) shoulders are not allowed inside the churches in Italy.
25. I can't (bear/bare) leaving my family to go live in a foreign country.
26. You should (based/baste) the turkey every hour to keep it moist.
27. My son will be (based/baste) in Afghanistan for the next four months.
28. A giant (bolder/boulder) fell off the side of the cliff and smashed onto the road.
29. The coyotes are getting (bolder/boulder) now. They come right up into the yard.
30. The woman (bread/bred) chihuahuas to sell to people who liked small dogs.

Pair work: work with a partner to read these conversations. Underline and discuss any words or phrases you don't understand. Then go over them in the large group with help from the teacher.

- A: What has your son been up to lately?
B: Not much. Mainly vegging out in front of the tube.

- A: I don't get good vibes from that last applicant. I'm not sure he's keen on working for us.
B: Yes, he gave me the impression he felt this interview was a waste of his time.

A: You shouldn't carry around a wad of cash like that. You might get your pocket picked.

B: Yeah, I meant to go straight to the bank when I got back into town, but I was so zonked after the long flight that I just hit the sack.

A: Give me a straight answer. Do you want to stay in this class or would you prefer to drop it and take it next semester?

B: I like the class, but I'm just so stressed out with all the papers I have to write this term, that I think it would be better if I dropped out.

A: My grandfather got taken in some kind of scam. A guy claiming to be a roofer collected a deposit from him to buy materials to replace his roof. That was the last Granddad ever saw of him. He lost several hundred bucks.

B: That's so unfair. I hate it that those scumbags will prey on the elderly.

A: Do you want your whiskey on the rocks?

B: Yes, please. I need to drown my sorrows since it appears my marriage is on the rocks.

A: She is a demanding woman and she rules the roost at home.

B: Her husband doesn't seem to mind, though. Their home is always spotlessly clean, her meals are gourmet and their kids are well-groomed and well-mannered.

A: Well, you can't argue with that.