



A2 -

Funny words that sound the same

Recognise and understand homophones, use humour to support comprehension, and build vocabulary and sentence confidence

Let's talk!

1. Do you like funny stories in English?
2. Have you heard words that sound the same but mean different things?
3. Can you think of two English words that sound the same?
4. What makes you laugh?
5. What's your favourite joke in any language?



What's a homophone?

A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another word, but has a different meaning and is often spelled differently.

Example: “two”, “too”, and “to” all sound the same, but have different meanings.

The word ‘homophone’ comes from Greek:

“homo-” (ὁμο-) = same

“phōnē” (φωνή) = sound or voice

So, it literally means “same sound”



Choose the correct meaning of the pun from the two options [1 of 2]

1. I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down!
 - a. The book is so interesting.
 - b. The book is floating in the air.
2. I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough.
 - a. He didn't have enough bread mix.
 - b. He didn't make enough money.
3. I know a guy who's great at fixing roofs ... He's on top of everything.
 - a. He is very organised.
 - b. He lives on the roof.

Choose the correct meaning of the pun from the two options [2 of 2]

4. What do you call cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese!
 - a. It's not your cheese.
 - b. It's a special kind of cheese.

5. I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
 - a. The sun came back in the morning.
 - b. I suddenly understood something.

What is a pun?

A pun is a joke that uses words with double meanings or words that sound the same (like homophones) to be funny.

It's a kind of wordplay where one word or phrase means two things at the same time — or where two similar sounding words are switched to create humour.

Example:

“Why did the banana go to the doctor?”

“Because it wasn't peeling well.”

“Peeling” sounds like “feeling” — and bananas peel. See? Funny!



The Egg Mistake

Sandra started a new job at a small hotel. One morning, her boss said: “Please collect the eggs from the henhouse.” Sandra didn’t understand. She took eggs from the fridge and walked outside. She opened the henhouse and said, “Hello chickens! Here are your eggs!”

Then she threw the boiled eggs at the chickens! The chickens were very confused. They ran around and made lots of noise. Her boss ran out: “What are you doing?” Sandra said: “You said ‘bring the eggs to the henhouse!’”

Her boss laughed and said, “No! I meant get fresh eggs from the chickens!” Sandra smiled. “English is funny.”

Comprehension questions

1. Where does Sandra work?

- a. A supermarket.
- b. A hotel.
- c. A farm.

2. What did her boss ask her to do?

- a. Throw eggs to the chickens.
- b. Get eggs from the fridge.
- c. Get eggs from the chickens.

3. What did Sandra do wrong?

- a. She gave old eggs to the boss.
- b. She threw eggs at the chickens.
- c. She ate the eggs.

4. Why did her boss laugh?

- a. Because Sandra made a funny mistake.
- b. Because the chickens were dancing.
- c. Because she likes eggs.

5. What made the story funny?

- a. Sandra is a good cook.
- b. She didn't understand a word that sounded the same as another word.
- c. The chickens could talk.



Match the homophones to their meanings

1. pear

2. write

3. won

4. hear

5. see



a. A pen is used to do this.

b. To be successful in a competition.

c. A fruit.

d. To listen.

e. To look.

Read and choose the correct word in each bracket.

Tom: Hey! Did you (hear / here) that funny story?

Lina: No! Tell me!

Tom: My cousin went to the (sea / see) and thought the fish were birds!

Lina: Really?

Tom: Yes! He didn't (know / no) they could jump.

Lina: Wow! He sounds silly.

Tom: Yeah. I (ate / eight) too much fish and chips that day too!

Lina: I want to go next time. Can I come (too / two)?



Homophones list

Homophone pair	Meaning 1	Meaning 2
two/too	Number 2	Also / very
see/sea	To look	Water (ocean)
hear/here	To listen	This place
sun/son	Bright sky star	A male child
write/right	Make words	Correct / direction
ate/eight	Past of 'eat'	Number 8
no/know	Not 'yes'	To understand
pair/pear	Two items	fruit
flour/flower	Baking powder	Plant with petals
one/won	Number 1	Past of 'win'



Thank you for your support.

YouTube: @elucidatedenglish