



HOMONYMS, HOMOPHONES AND ONE WORD SUBSTITUTIONS

: UNIT STRUCTURE :

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13.0 OBJECTIVES

In this unit, you shall learn

- homonyms and homophones
- difference between Homonyms and Homophones
- one word substitutions

13.1 INTRODUCTION

In linguistics, a **homonym** is a group of words that share the same spelling *and* the same pronunciation but have different meanings. This usually happens as a result of the two words having different origins. The state of being a homonym is called homonymy.

A **homophone** is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning. The words may be spelled the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of “rise”), or differently, such as carat, caret, and carrot, or to, two and too.

All homonyms are homophones because they sound the same. However, not all homophones are homonyms. Homophones with different spellings are not homonyms.

13.2 HOMONYMS

Homonyms are two words that are spelled the same and sound the same but have different meanings. The word “homonym” comes from the prefix “*homo-*,” which means the same, and the suffix “-nym,” which means name. Therefore, a homonym is a word that has the same name as another word, meaning that the two words look and sound exactly alike.

A simple example of a homonym is the word “**pen**.” This can mean both “a holding area for animals” and “a writing instrument.” Another example is “**book**,” which can mean “something to read” or “the act of making a reser-

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vation.” In both cases, the sound and spelling are the same, and only the definition changes. Here are some examples.

- **Address** - to speak to / location
- **Air** - oxygen / a lilting tune
- **Arm** - body part / division of a company
- **Band** - a musical group / a ring
- **Bark** - a tree’s out layer / the sound a dog makes
- **Bat** - an implement used to hit a ball / a nocturnal flying mammal
- **Bright** - very smart or intelligent / filled with light
- **Circular** - taking the form of a circle / a store advertisement
- **Current** - up to date / flow of water
- **Die** - to cease living / a cube marked with numbers one through six
- **Express** - something done fast / to show your thoughts by using words
- **Fair** - equitable / beautiful
- **Jag** - a sharp, juttred object / a crying spree
- **Kind** - type / caring
- **Lie** - to recline / to tell a falsehood
- **Match** - to pair like items / a stick for making a flame
- **Mean** - average / not nice
- **Pole** - a person from Poland / a piece of metal that holds a flag
- **Pound** - unit of weight / to beat
- **Quarry** - a site for mining stone / to extract or obtain slowly
- **Ream** - a pile of paper / to juice a citrus fruit
- **Ring** - a band on a finger / something circular in shape
- **Right** - correct / direction opposite of left
- **Rock** - a genre of music / a stone
- **Rose** - to have gotten up / a flower
- **Spring** - a season / coiled metal
- **Stalk** - a part of a plant / to follow or harass someone
- **Tender** - gentle / offer of money
- **Tire** - to grow fatigued / a part of a wheel
- **Well** - in good health / a source for water in the ground

13.3 HOMOPHONES

A **homophone** is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning. The words may be spelled the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of “rise”), or differently, such as carat, caret, and carrot, or to, two and too. Here are some examples.

HOMONYMS,
HOMOPHONES AND
ONE WORD
SUBSTITUTIONS

All [everything]-	All the people you invited have attended
Awl [a small point tool]-	The wood was carved with an awl.
Ail [troubles]-	Mental agony ails her
ale [Kind of beer]-	They were with ale for dinner.
Altar [Platform for worship]-	Sacrifices were offered on the altar.
Alter [to change]-	She had to alter her clothes after losing weight
Aloud [noisily]-	Do not talk aloud.
Allowed [permitted]-	They were allowed to go out.
Ascent [The action of going up]-	Edmond Hillary made his ascent on Mount Everest first.
Assent [approval]-	The President gave his assent to the financial bill.
Advice [counsel]-	He gave an advice to his son
Advise [To give counsel]-	Teacher advised all the students
Adapt [To fit]	Sachin found difficult to adapt in England
Adopt [accept one as son]-	I want to adopt a child
Birth [Born]	She gave birth to a female child.
Berth [With bed]-	I reserved 4 berths for my family
Bare [empty]	He went bare footedly
Bear [carry]-	You have to bear the inconvenience.
Bail [on condition let out]	He was let on bail.
Bale [bundle]	The cotton bale was loaded in the lorry
Ball [football]	I am watching football
Bawl [shouted]	The angry man bawled at me.
Brake [stop]	The drive applied the brake.
Break [make into pieces]	He tried to break the fused bulb.
Beech [a kind of tree]	We sat under the shade in the beech.
Beach [sea shore]	Children were playing in the beach.
Base [bottom, foundation]	The base of the tower is broad
Bass [notes for singing]	He sang with base notes.
Bolder [More courageous]	Abdul is bolder than Rahim
boulder [A large smooth rock]	There was a boulder blocking the path
Boarder [A pupil who lives at a boarding school]	Robert was studying as a boarder.
Border [Line dividing two countries]	There is always a dispute about the Indo China border.
Born [Come to life]	Jems was born in London.

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Borne [Carried]	She had borne the child.
Beat [to strike]	Donot beat a baby
Beet [a vegetable]	Beet gives vitamin A.
Bred [Brought up]	He was well-bred.
Bread [a baked food]	Bread is a good food
By [at]	The chair was made by the carpenter.
Bye [By the way]	Good bye.
Buy [To purchase]	I buy a ball.
Carat	Diamond is measured in carat.
[Unit to measure diamond, gold:]	
Carrot [A kind of vegetable]	Vitamin A is rich in carrot.
Ceiling [To cover upper surface]	The ceiling of the rooms must be high.
Sealing [Stamp]	We use a kind of wax for sealing letters
Check [Examine or control]	The teacher advised her students to check whether they have attempted all the questions.
Cheque [Bank written order]	I got a cheque for \$100 from my father.
Cell [small room]	The prisoner is locked up in a cell.
Sell [exchange things for money]	They sell the fruits at a high price.
Cue [Signal]	The director made a cue to the actor to start.
Queue [a line of people]	There was long queue in the ticket counter.
Council [assembly]	There is student's council in this school.
Counsel [advice]	Teacher guides and counsels the students.
Carrier [One who carries goods]	This lorry is a public carrier.
Career [mode of living]	What is your future career?
Canvas [Rough cloth]	It is a canvas shoe.
Canvass [Asking for vote]	M.L.A. canvassed for the candidate in the election
Case [box / enclose]	This is a suit case.
Cash [money]	Don't have cash in the pocket while you are in the bus.
Dual [double]	He bought a dual desk.
Duel [fight]	The boy was hurt in the duel.
Disease [sickness]	He is weak because of disease.
Decease [death]	She is the wife of the diseased.
Die [death]	Many children die on malnutrition
Dye [color]	He applied dye to his hair.
Fair [good]	She is a fair lady.

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Fare [charge]	The ticket fare has been hiked.
Flew [past tense for fly]	Birds flew to warmer places.
Flue [pipe in a chimney]	Smoke is let out through flue.
Grate [make harsh ground]	The opposition parties grate the ruling party.
Great [famous]	William Shakespeare was a great English poet.
Hew [chop or cut]	The landlord asked the gardener to hew the branches.
Hue [color]	We can see birds of varied hues at London Wetland Centre.
Knight [soldier of a cavalry]	The Knight fought bravely.
Night [darkness]	He came to our house last night.
Lessen [to diminish]	Machines lessen the burden of me.
Lesson [task]	I learnt a lesson from him.
Loose [ill fitting]	Her garments are loose.
Lose [failing to keep something]	Don't lose the opportunity
Meter [Measurer]	Thermometer is used to measure the temperature
Metre [Measure in poetry]	This poem is of pentametre.
Not [no]	She was not going to school in this summer.
Knot [tied together]	He tied a knot.
New [fresh]	I bought a new car.
Knew [understood]	She knew French.
Week [unit of time]	I will come in next week.
Weak [becoming pale]	She is so weak that she cannot walk quickly.
Wring [to twist]	Wring the clothes after wash.
Ring [circle to produce a sound]	He rings the bell.

13.4 ONE WORD SUBSTITUTIONS

One word substitutions is one of the integral parts of vocabulary. It simply means that a sentence has to be replaced with a single word. This area requires a good vocabulary to solve the questions well. Here are some examples of one word substitutions.

1. The Study of Ancient Society

Ans. Archaeology

2. A practice of having more than one husband

Ans. Polyandry

3. Things which cannot be read

Ans. Illegible

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4. Incapable of being seen through

Ans. Opaque

5. The Government wing responsible for making Rule

Ans. Legislature

6. A Government by the Nobles

Ans. Aristocracy

7. Things which cannot be believed

Ans. Incredible

8. One which cannot be seen

Ans. Invisible

9. Person who speak many language

Ans. Multilingual

10. A person who sacrifices his life for a cause

Ans. Martyr

11. A geometrical figure with eight sides

Ans. Octagon

12. An instrument to measure temperature

Ans. Thermometer

13. Something easily broken

Ans. Fragile

14. A place for clothes

Ans. Wardrobe

15. Life history of a person written by that person

Ans. Autobiography

16. Fear of confined places

Ans. Claustrophobia

17. A nursery where children are cared for while their parents are at work

Ans. Crèche

18. A person employed to drive a private or hired car

Ans. Chauffeur

19. A book that contains information on various subjects

Ans. Ncyclopedia

20. A place where dead bodies are kept for identification

Ans. Morgue

21. A woman whose spouse is dead

Ans. Widow

22. A person who does not eat meat

Ans. Vegetarian

23. The act of intentionally killing oneself

Ans. Suicide

24. A person who travels on foot

Ans. Pedestrian

25. A home for children without parents

Ans. Orphanage

26. Set in wrong time or period

Ans. Anachronistic

27. An event causing sudden damage or suffering

Ans. Catastrophe

28. Intimidation by threat

Ans. Coercion

29. The art of writing or solving codes

Ans. Cryptograph

30. A place where one lives permanently

Ans. Domicile

31. A disease which attacks many people in a particular area in one time

Ans. Epidemic

32. Things which are of the same kind and of the same dimensions.

Ans. Homogenous

33. A speech delivered without any previous preparation

Ans. Extempore

34. A great lover of books

Ans. Bibliophile

35. One who journeys to a holy place

Ans. Pilgrim

36. A building where animals are killed for meat

Ans. Abattoir

37. A government run by a dictator

Ans. Autocracy

38. That which cannot be seen through

Ans. Opaque

39. A large group of insects moving in a mass

Ans. Swarm

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- 40. Study of evolution of mankind**
Ans. Anthropology
- 41. Custodian of a museum**
Ans. Curator
- 42. Sleeping rooms with several beds especially in a college or institution**
Ans. Dormitory
- 43. A person skilled in foreign languages**
Ans. Linguist
- 44. One who collects stamps**
Ans. Philatelist
- 45. One who does not take any alcoholic drink**
Ans. Teetotaler
- 46. Something that can be carried easily**
Ans. Portable
- 47. An instrument to measure temperature**
Ans. Thermometer
- 48. A geometrical figure with eight sides**
Ans. Octagon
- 49. Life history of a person written by that person**
Ans. Autobiography
- 50. Fear of confined places**
Ans. Claustrophobia
- 51. One who is not sure about God's existence**
Ans. Agnostic
- 52. A person who has changed his faith**
Ans. Apostate
- 53. One who does not believe in the existence of God**
Ans. Atheist
- 54. A person appointed by two parties to solve a dispute**
Ans. Arbitrator
- 55. One who is bad in spellings**
Ans. Cacographer
- 56. One who is a centre of attraction**
Ans. Cynosure
- 57. A person having a sophisticated charm**
Ans. Debonair

58. One who is for pleasure of eating and drinking

Ans. Epicure

59. One who runs away from justice

Ans. Fugitive

60. One who believes in fate

Ans. Fatalist

61. One who does not express himself freely

Ans. Introvert

62. Who behaves without moral principles

Ans. Immoral

63. A family of young animals

Ans. Brood

64. A person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft

Ans. Astronaut

65. A person who writes beautiful writing

Ans. Calligrapher

66. A person who sells and arranges cut flowers

Ans. Florist

67. A large, tall cupboard in which clothes may be hung or stored

Ans. Wardrobe

68. An obsessive fear of words

Ans. Logophobia

69. A room or building in which dead bodies are kept

Ans. Mortuary

70. Killing of one's father

Ans. Patricide

71. Act of intentionally causing one's own death

Ans. Suicide

72. A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one

Ans. Allegory

73. Spoken or done without preparation

Ans. Extempore

74. Relating to sound

Ans. Acoustics

75. One who studies the science of animals and plants.

Ans. Biologist

76. Easily broken

Ans. Brettle

13.5 LET US SUM UP

In this you have learnt the

- Difference between homonym and homophones and
- One word substitution

13.6 KEY WORDS

Linguistic : relating to language or linguistics.

Pronunciation : the way in which a word is pronounced.

Homophones : each of two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling, for example new and knew.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTIONS FROM GIVEN BELOW.

1. The life history of a person written by himself.
a) Autobiography b) Biography
c) Novel d) Story
2. Government by the nobles.
a) Aristocracy b) Democracy
c) Bureaucracy d) Aristocracy
3. A person skilled in foreign languages.
a) Foreigner b) Altruist
c) Translator d) Linguist
4. One who works for the good of others.
a) Altruist b) Charitable
c) Humanitarian d) Philanthropic
5. Words spoken by great men.
a) Apothegm b) Aphorism
c) Byword d) epigram

13.7 BOOK SUGGESTED AND WEB RESOURCES

One Word Substitutions by Ajay K Singh

A Student's Companion - One Word Substitution by KiranPrakashan, Kick, Pratiyogita Kiran

yourdictionary.com/

1. <https://www.spellingcity.com/homophones-and-homonyms.html>

ANSWERS

1-a, 2- a, 3- d, 4-a, 5-a