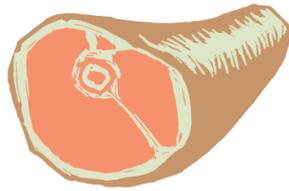


# How to learn homophones

Homophones are words that **sound the same** but have **different spellings** and **different meanings**



meat



meet

These words are called homophones from the Greek words homo (meaning same) and phonos (meaning sound). Some other examples:

die / dye    flair / flare    hole / whole    paws / pause    threw / through

Sometimes it is hard to remember which spelling to use because

- Both words look right - they are both real words.
- Both words sound the same - so the sounds won't help you.

So how can you remember which word is which? Try inventing a mnemonic to help fix the correct word in your memory. For example:



## 1. Link the words with others that you know:

*hear* - with your ears    Did you *hear* that strange noise?    You *hear* with your *ears*.  
*here* - a place    Don't put it *here*, put it over there.    *Here* is a place - like *there* and *where*.

## 2. Look at the letter that is different.

Think of a link that helps you remember the meaning.  
Write the words in a cross and draw pictures.

*leak* - let out liquid    The broken tap is *leaking*.    The tap *leaks* with *water*  
*leek* - vegetable    *Leeks* taste a bit like onions.    *Leeks* are *green*.

t  
leak  
p

g  
r  
leek  
e  
n



## 3. Look for small words within the main word:

*peace* - opposite of war.    If the baby is asleep there is *peace* and quiet.  
*piece* - part, section.    Don't eat it all, leave me a *piece*.



In each of the examples above, you had to target the letters that were different and think of a way to remember which word had which meaning.

Your turn now. Look at these two words: *beech* - a tree    *beach* - sand by the sea

Imagine you want to teach someone which word is which. How would you do it?

Each section of Spellzone targets one sound and finishes with homophones for that sound. In many cases, ideas for mnemonics are given, to help you remember which word is which. For further information please see the Student Guide and the free units.

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