

Homophones - Instructions for teachers

You need: a copy of the Homophones handout

Procedure:

1) Dictate this list of words to your students (homophones are in brackets):

1. saw (sore)
2. right (write)
3. to (too/two)
4. aren't (aunt)
5. new (knew)
6. sea (see)
7. eight (ate)

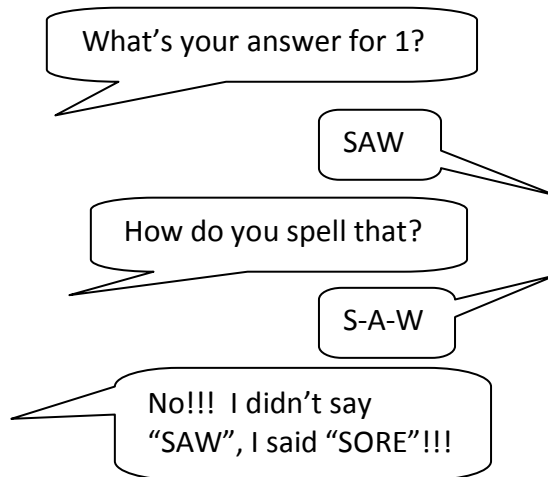
Then, either get students to compare answers and see if any wrote the words with different spellings, or ...

... if you don't let them compare answers first, you can get a lot of humour out of this.

Pick a confident student first and elicit answer number 1.

Make a big deal out of them getting it wrong (even if they got it right - pretend you said the other spelling instead).

Write up both the answers though. Then ask another student for question 2, again over-acting the "I can't believe you got it wrong again!"



When you've got all the answers on the board, admit that you weren't being fair - the words are in fact pronounced exactly the same.

2) Ask students if they can think of any other examples. Then give the handout below. They should work in pairs and say the words, to see if they know another word with the same pronunciation. Emphasize that they don't *need* the word-search - it's just there to help if they don't know the answer.

3) Finally, they complete the sentences with the correct spelling of each of the homophones they have studied. Students who finish quickly could then practise saying the sentences - their partner should listen and make sure they are pronouncing both words the same.



Homophones

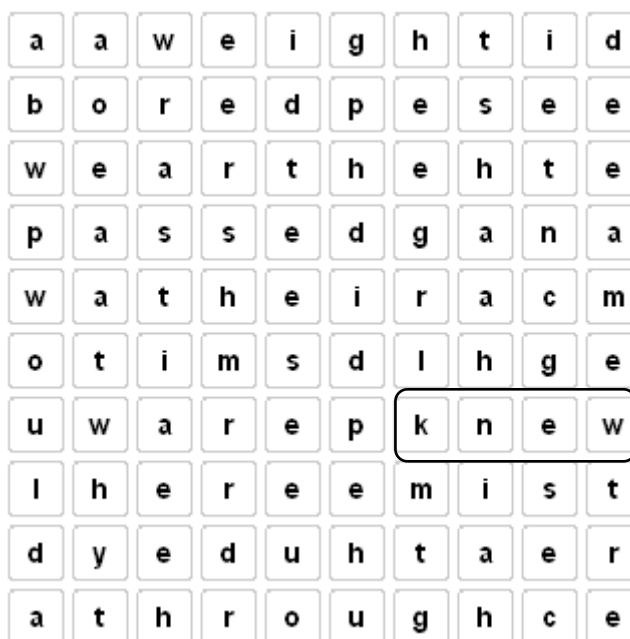
Some words in English have the same pronunciation, but different spelling and meaning. Find words with the same pronunciation in the word-search below. For example, the homophone for 'new' is 'knew'.

threw
piece
board
meat

wait
wood
pear
where

past
there
wore
missed

side
plain
hear
died



And which words would you use to complete these sentences?

- I nearly _____ of embarrassment. / I've _____ my hair pink.
- I _____ a cat costume to the party. / The First World _____ ended in 1918.
- Can I have a _____ of cake? / I just want some _____ and quiet.
- This chair is made of _____. / What _____ you like to do tonight?
- _____ are you going? / I don't usually _____ suits.
- I'm _____. / The teacher wrote some questions on the _____.
- The Beatles are great - I love _____ music. / _____ isn't much to do in this town.
- I'll _____ you outside the cinema at 6 o'clock. / I don't usually eat _____.
- I bought a really nice _____ of jeans. / I only ate a _____ for lunch today.
- I walked _____ the park. / He _____ the ball really hard.
- I never travel by _____. / The food here is really _____.
- I _____ the exam! / I never think about the _____.
- If anyone phones, tell them I'm not _____. / I can't _____ you!
- Tomorrow there will be some _____. / I really _____ him when I went abroad.
- I always sleep on my _____. / I _____ when I found out he was late again.
- I've put on a lot of _____. / I can't _____ any longer.



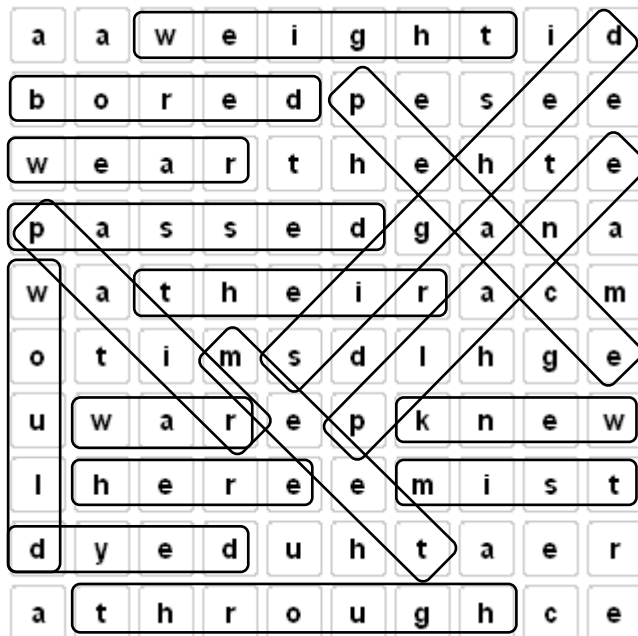
Answers:

threw/**through**
piece/**peace**
board/**bored**
meat/**meet**

wait/**weight**
wood/**would**
pear/**pair**
where/**wear**

past/**passed**
there/**their**
wore/**war**
missed/**mist**

side/**sighed**
plain/**plane**
hear/**here**
died/**dyed**



17. I nearly **died** of embarrassment / I've **dyed** my hair pink.
18. I **wore** a cat costume to the party. / The First World **War** ended in 1918.
19. Can I have a **piece** of cake? / I just want some **peace** and quiet.
20. This chair is made of **wood**. / What **would** you like to do tonight?
21. **Where** are you going? / I don't usually **wear** suits.
22. I'm **bored**. / The teacher wrote some questions on the **board**.
23. The Beatles are great - I love **their** music. / **There** isn't much to do in this town.
24. I'll **meet** you outside the cinema at 6 o'clock. / I don't usually eat **meat**.
25. I bought a really nice **pair** of jeans. / I only ate a **pear** for lunch today.
26. I walked **through** the park. / He **threw** the ball really hard.
27. I never travel by **plane**. / The food here is really **plain**.
28. I **passed** the exam! / I never think about the **past**.
29. If anyone phones, tell them I'm not **here**. / I can't **hear** you!
30. Tomorrow there will be some **mist**. / I really **missed** my family when I went abroad.
31. I always sleep on my **side**. / I **sighed** when I found out he was late again.
32. I've put on a lot of **weight**. / I can't **wait** any longer.

