

# Homographs

Homographs are two words that have the **same spelling**.



ring

ring



love  
(heart)



watch

watch



love  
(tennis 'O')



rose

rose



rock

rock



**Mr. Smith's Check:**

Do the same words  
have different meaning?

# Homographs

Homographs have **two meanings**.

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but have two distinct definitions. Sometimes two homographs are pronounced differently, but not always. A word that has a double meaning might be misunderstood in a sentence.

## Mr. Keith's Check

To check to see if a word is a double meaning word, ask yourself:

*Does the same word have **two different definitions**?*

**coast** (means "shore")

*We drove to the **coast**.*

**coast** (means "glide")

*The biker began to **coast**.*

If the answer is "yes" then they are probably homographs.

## Using Homographs

Homographs sometimes have one definition that is common and another that is little known. When using these words in a sentence, but sure the meaning is clear.

<b>bay</b>	The yacht came to a stop in the <b>bay</b> .	( <i>inlet</i> )
	The wolves began to <b>bay</b> at the moon.	( <i>howl</i> )
<b>wind</b>	A warm <b>wind</b> blew in from the east.	( <i>breeze</i> )
	Try to <b>wind</b> your watch in the morning.	( <i>tighten</i> )
<b>land</b>	The pilot will <b>land</b> the plane in the small field.	( <i>arrive</i> )
	There is much <b>land</b> for sale in Quebec.	( <i>ground</i> )
<b>dove</b>	The swimmer <b>dove</b> into the deep end.	( <i>plunged</i> )
	A <b>dove</b> flew high above the clear water.	( <i>ground</i> )
<b>entrance</b>	Her eyes would <b>entrance</b> the young prince .	( <i>captivate</i> )
	The rear <b>entrance</b> was closed to the public.	( <i>opening</i> )

## Examples

Here are some common homographs. Remember, even though two words are spelled the same, they are different if they have different meanings.

book	<i>“reserve”</i>	book	<i>“novel”</i>
buck	<i>“male deer”</i>	buck	<i>“dollar”</i>
tumbler	<i>“gymnast”</i>	tumbler	<i>“glass”</i>
sound	<i>“noise”</i>	sound	<i>“logical”</i>
loaf	<i>“relax”</i>	loaf	<i>“bread”</i>
break	<i>“rest”</i>	break	<i>“shatter”</i>
fast	<i>“starve”</i>	fast	<i>“quick”</i>
fine	<i>“okay”</i>	fine	<i>“penalty”</i>
plant	<i>“flower”</i>	plant	<i>“factory”</i>
fair	<i>“carnival”</i>	fair	<i>“even”</i>

## Discussion Questions

1. What is a homograph?
2. What are some examples of homographs?
3. Define and use the following words in sentences with two different definitions.

star	close	combine
desert	drawer	present

4. What are some names that are like homographs such as “Mark” (correct) or “Ruby” (red stone)?
5. What are some words that have two distinct definitions and pronunciations (sounds) like “wind” or “tear”?

**Write a short definition (meaning) of each word.**

1. The teacher was kind to me on my first day. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Darcy lives a block east of the library. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Heather is the best guard on our team. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The empty boxes were light and easy to carry. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The wolves often bay at the moon. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write two definitions for each word.**

- |              |       |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| 6. light     | _____ | _____ |
| 7. break     | _____ | _____ |
| 8. home      | _____ | _____ |
| 9. record    | _____ | _____ |
| 10. entrance | _____ | _____ |

**Write a sentence that uses the underlined word with a *different* meaning.**

11. The young private sent a letter home to his family.
12. The lawyer appeared in court this afternoon.
13. The piece of plastic was clear like a window.
14. In the morning the ocean is a deep blue.
15. We won our volleyball game against Newbrook.

**Complete each sentence with a word that will work in *both* blanks.**

16. Dad will be \_\_\_\_\_ if you \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong bridge.
17. During the wet \_\_\_\_\_, people often \_\_\_\_\_ fresh food.
18. The tired \_\_\_\_\_ asked for a \_\_\_\_\_ of water.
19. After the battle, the \_\_\_\_\_ needed a \_\_\_\_\_ place to sit.
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the kindergarten class wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Write a paragraph using the following words:**

**wind**

**live**

**produce**

**combine**

**test**