

Homophones – words that sound the same

Homophones are words that sound the same but have a different meaning and spelling. For example:

*My **son** is a doctor*

*The **sun** is really hot today.*

The common homophones on this page are grouped according to the sound that is spelled differently. Words marked *UK* only sound similar in British English. If words are in dark type (e.g. **grate** – **great**) they are common causes of mistakes for learners.

i:

bean – been
 be – bee
 feat – feet
 flea – flee
 heel – he'll – heal
 leak – leek
 meat – meet
 peace – piece
 peak – peek
 peal – peel
 reed – read
 sea – see
 seam – seem
 seen – scene
 steal – steel
 suite – sweet
 weak – week
 weave – we've

UK ɔɪ US ɔɪr

board – bored
 caught – court *UK*
 coarse – course
 hoarse – horse
 sauce – source *UK*
 saw – soar *UK*
 sort – sought *UK*
 warn – worn

eɪ

bale – bail
 brake – break
grate – great

male – mail
 pain – pane
 pair – pear
 pray – prey
 rain – reign – rein
 sale – sail
 slay – sleigh
 stake – steak
 Sunday – sundae
 tale – tail
 wail – whale
 wait – weight
 waste – waist
 way – weigh

UK əʊ US oʊ

groan – grown
hole – whole
know – no
 loan – lone
 road – rode – rowed
 role – roll
 row – roe
 sew – so
 sole – soul

ə

altar – alter
 currant – current
 gorilla – guerrilla
 idol – idle
 manner – manor
 miner – minor

aɪ

aisle – I'll – isle
 aye – eye – I
 buy – by – bye
 dye – die
 hi – high
 hire – higher
 rye – wry
 sight – site
right – write
 tyre – tire

UK eəʳ US ɛr

air – heir
 fair – fare
 bare – bear
 pair – pear
 stair – stare
there – they're – their
 ware – wear – where

u:

blew – blue
 flew – flu – flue
 threw – through
to – too – two