

Homographs

Homographs (heteronym) are words that are spelled the same but not pronounced the same and have different meanings

- **Affect** *ehFEKT*- to change; *AFFekt*- a person's feelings or emotion
- **Alternate** *ALternit*- the next choice; *ALternait*- switch back and forth
- **Are** *AHR*- plural present tense of "to be"; *AIR*- 100 square meters (1/100th of a hectare) [although may also be pronounced *AHR*]
- **Ares** *AIRS*- 100 square meter units [plural]; *AIReez*- Greek god of war [capitalized]
- **Attribute** *ahTRIByoot*- to consider resulting from; *AHtribyoot*- a characteristic of someone (12)
- **August** *AUGust*- month [capitalized]; *auGUST*- important, eminent
- **Axes** *AKsiz*- more than one ax or axe; *AKseez*- the plural of axis
- **Bass** *BASE*- a string instrument; (*rhymes with mass*)- a fish
- **Bow** *BAU*- to lower one's head or the front of a ship; *BOH*- used to shoot arrows
- **Bowed** *BAU-d*- to bend over; *BOH-d*- bent
- **Buffet** *BUFFet*- to pound or bump; *booFAY*- place where you serve yourself
- **Close** *CLOZE*- to shut; *CLOS*- near
- **Combine** *komBYNE*- put together; *KOMbyne*- a threshing machine
- **Conduct** *KONduckt*- behavior; *kunDUCKT*- to lead (see this heteronym below)
- **Conflict** *kunFLIKT*- to act against; *KAHNflict*- a fight or disagreement
- **Console** *KAHNsole*- an upright case; *kunSOLE*- to comfort
- **Content** *KAHNtent*- meaning; *kunTENT*- satisfied
- **Contest** *kunTEST*- to argue; *KAHNtest*- a match of skill
- **Contract** *CONtract*- an agreement; *conTRACT*- to shrink or to agree on a project
- **Convert** *conVERT*- to change one's belief; *CONvert*- one whose belief was changed
- **Converse** *KAHNvers*- the opposite; *kunVERS*- to talk
- **Convict** *kunVIKT*- to find guilty; *KAHNvikt*- a prisoner
- **Crooked** *KROOKt*- to bend your neck; *KROOK-ed*- having a curve
- **Deliberate** *diLIBerit*- carefully considered; *diLIBerATE*- to consider
- **Desert** *dihZURT*- to leave ; *DEZert*- arid region
- **Digest** *DYEjest*- collection of published material; *dieJEST*- absorb nutrients
- **Do** *DOO*- to accomplish; *DOE*- a musical note
- **Does** *DUZ*- performs; *DOZE*- more than one female deer
- **Dove** *DUV*- a bird; *DOEV*- jumped off

- **Drawer** *DROR*- the compartment you pull out from the dresser; *DRAWer*- one who draws
- **Excuse** *EKskyooz*- to let someone off; *EKskyoos*- a reason or explanation
- **House** *HAUS*- a building that serves as living quarters; *HOWZ*- to provide with living quarters
- **Incense** *INsens*- burnt aromatic; *inSENS*- to make angry
- **Intern** *Intern*- a physician in training; *inTERN*- confine to prescribed area
- **Invalid** *inVALLid*- not valid; *INvallid*- an ill person
- **Laminate** *LAMinate*- to construct by adding layers; *LAMinit* [although both pronunciations are listed]- the cover itself
- **Lather** (*rhymes with rather*)- foam or suds; (*rhymes with bath fur*)- a worker who installs lath (lattice work)
- **Lead** *LEED*- to guide; *LED*- a metallic element
- **Minute** *MINNIt*- 60 seconds; *myNOOT*- tiny
- **Moderate** *MODerit*- keeping within reason; *MODerATE*- to preside over
- **Mow** *MOH*- to cut grass; *MAU*- a pile of hay
- **Multiply** *MULLtihPLIE*- multiply two numbers; *MULLtihplee*- in a multiple manner
- **Number** *NUMber*- one, two, three ...; *NUMMER*- more numb [many dictionaries do not list this use, which suggests that "more numb" is preferred; however, the listed use is given in The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition, Electronic version.]
- **Nun** *NUN*- women in religious order; *NOON*- 14th letter in Hebrew alphabet
- **Object** *ubJEKT*- to complain; *AHBjekt*- a thing
- **Pasty** *PAstee*- like glue; *PASStee*- a meat pie
- **Pate** *PAIT*- a bald head; *paTAY*- a minced food; *PAHT*- a porcelain paste [diacritics in *pâté* and *pâte* don't count!]
- **Perfect** *PERfekt*- exactly correct; *perFEKT*- to make correct
- **Periodic** *PEEReeODDiK*- occasional; *PUREeyeODDiK*- an iodine compound
- **Permit** *perMIT*- to allow some event to occur; *PERmit* [although both pronunciations are listed]- a document giving permission
- **Polish** *POElish*- from Poland; *PAHLish*- shine [capitalization doesn't count!]
- **Present** *PREZent*- a gift; *preeSENT*- to give a talk
- **Primer** *PRIHMer*- an elementary book; *PRYmer*- the preparatory coat of paint
- **Produce** *PROdoos*- vegetables; *proDOOS*- bring forth
- **Project** *proJEKT*- to show a movie; *PRAHjekt*- a task
- **Pussy** *PUHSee*- having pus; *POOHSee*; a kitten
- **Raven** *RAYven*- black bird; *RAVen*- hungry
- **Rebel** *REBBell*- a resister; *rihBELL*- to resist
- **Record** *RECKord*- a list; *reKORD*- to write down

- **Recreation** *rek-ree-Ashun*- pastime; *REEcreeAshun*- remake (also, **recreate**)
- **Refuse** *reFUSE*- to deny; *REFFyoos*- garbage
- **Relay** *reeLAY*- to put it down again, such as a carpet; *REElay*- a race by teams; *rihLAY*- to pass along, such as information [One of our dictionaries gives these pronunciations, but does not distinguish meanings among the latter two. The pronunciation may vary among individuals.]
- **Rerun** *reRUN*- to race again or to repeat a show on television; *RErun*- a repeated TV show
- **Reside**: *reZIDE*- to stay put; *RE-SYD*- [Slang] to change places (change teams) [usu. hyphenated as re-side] (
- **Resign** *reZYN*- to quit; *reSYN*- to sign again (e.g., a contract) [usu. hyphenated as re-sign]
- **Resume** *reeZOOM*- to restart; *REHZoomay*- a document of experience [also résumé; diacritics don't count!]
- **Row** *ROH*- a line; *ROUW*- a fight
- **Sake** *SAHkey*- alcoholic drink; *SAYK*- a purpose
- **Secrete** *seeKREET*- to discharge; *sehKRET*- an armored skullcap [secrete, diacritics don't count!]
- **Secreted** *seeKREETed*- having put out; *SEEkrehed*- placed out of sight
- **Separate** *SEPerATE*- to divide into groups; *SEPre*- not joined together
- **Sewer** *SOwer*- one who sews; *SOOwer*- place for human waste
- **Slough** *SLUFF*- the outer layer of skin of a snake; [*rhymes with OW!*]- a hole of deep mud or mire; *SLOO*- a marshy pond
- **Sow** *SOUW*- a pig; *SO*- to plant seed
- **Subject** *SUBjekt*- the theme; *subJEKT*- to force upon someone
- **Tear** *TARE*- to rip; *TEER*- fluid in eye
- **Wind** *WHINED*- to coil up; *WIND*- the blowing air
- **Wound** *WOOND*- to injure; *WOWND*- coiled up