



# Homophones

**D**o you think the two spelling errors in this ad are really mistakes? If not, why did the writer purposely use the wrong homophone spelling for sale and not?

28.8 (V.34) cellular fax/modem.

## BOAT FOR SAIL!

7 m Olympic Keele boat, 3 sails, compass, life jackets, etc.  
\$3000.00.

**KNOT TO BE MISSED!**

14" Colour Tv stereo sound with

allowed  
aloud  
flour  
hangar  
hanger  
pore  
pour  
stationary  
stationery  
steal  
steel  
waist  
ware  
waste

### OTHER PATTERNS

\*instead  
loose  
lose  
receipt  
recipe  
\*Saturday

## Thinking about Words

1. Advertisers often play with the spelling of words to create interest. The following businesses specialize in hairstyling. The owners have used homophones or unusual spellings to create a humorous effect.

Write the names of these businesses as they should be spelled:

- a) Shear Delights
- b) Curl Up and Dye
- c) Hairloom Hairstyling
- d) Rico's Hairitage

2. Try creating your own humorous advertisement using some of the homophone list words.

## Word Pattern

Words that sound the same but have different meanings, and sometimes different spellings, are called *homophones*.

\* frequently misspelled word



## Working with Words

### SPELLING SECRETS

Remember the "e" in **stationery** by linking it with pens, envelopes, and letters. Recall the "a" in **stationary** by thinking of stay.

1. Complete the following sentences with the correct homophone pairs. (Hint: At least one of the homophones in each sentence appears in the unit list.)

- We are not \_\_\_\_\_ to sing \_\_\_\_\_ while the baby is sleeping.
- Is that beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ made out of \_\_\_\_\_ and water?
- I left my jacket on a \_\_\_\_\_ when our class toured the \_\_\_\_\_ at the airport.
- The special belt for my \_\_\_\_\_ was really a \_\_\_\_\_ of money.

2. Match the correct pair of homophones with each of the clues.

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. plain/plane           | a) a faded bucket                                       |
| 2. pale/pail             | b) writing paper that doesn't move                      |
| 3. herd/heard            | c) the cattle paid attention                            |
| 4. steal/steel           | d) ordinary-looking airline                             |
| 5. heals/heels           | e) the work done by a foot doctor                       |
| 6. stationary/stationery | f) take the alloy of iron and carbon without permission |

3. Use the words **receipt** and **recipe** in one or more sentences to show that you understand the meaning of each.

4. There are many English idioms or expressions that contain the word **lose**. Write in your own words what you think each of the following sentences means.

- You'll lose your shirt if you invest in that company.
- You stand to lose a great deal of money if you quit your job.
- Don't lose heart. I'm sure we can solve this problem.
- Don't lose your head when someone tries to start a fight.

### LANGUAGE MATTERS

Many words are easily confused because of slight differences in spelling. For example:

human/humane	capital/capitol	set/sit
emigrant/immigrant	adapt/adopt	persecute/prosecute



## Writing and Revising

1. The person who wrote this want ad must have been confused! Rewrite it using the correct words.

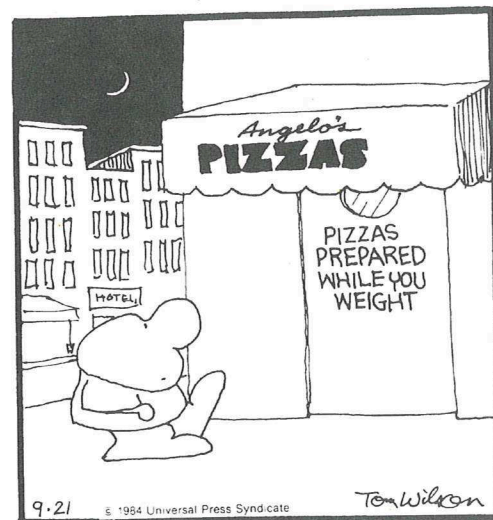
**COT AGE FOUR SAIL** Why weight! Let yore imagination sore.  
Stay a weak, stay a lifethyme. Too bedrooms. To bathes.  
Basque under sum fur trees while you smell the sent of nature.  
By before those chilli nights are hear. Call know! 222-1234.

2. Want ads are usually brief and use abbreviations or short forms of words. Find a want ad that looks interesting. Rewrite it using complete sentences. Give your ad a title.

3. Businesses often use unusual spelling, homophones, or incorrect words to advertise their products or services. Sometimes these words are part of a trademark or business title; for example, Kwik Kleen Laundry.

- a) Collect a scrapbook of unusual business and product names.
- b) Why do you think businesses use these examples of incorrect spelling?

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4. a) Re-arrange the letters of the words below to find common homophones.

ceit

nets

lates

leer

hewer

lima

rose

- b) Write a sentence for each homophone.

- c) Now add the matching homophone to each of your sentences.  
Example: Sitting on a board can make you very bored!

**SPELLING  
SECRETS**

Recall the spelling of the word **loose** by thinking of a *loose moose*.



## LANGUAGE MATTERS

Here are some homophone words that are unusual. By re-arranging the letters in each word *or* by dropping a letter, you can create the matching homophone.

great  
bear

knight  
tide

hour  
fined

steak  
waive

### The Editing Desk

**Sentence Parts: Phrases** A phrase is a group of words that does not express a complete thought. For example, “Going past the corner” is a phrase because the subject is missing. We don’t know *who* is going past the corner.

1. Rewrite the paragraph below by changing the phrases into complete sentences. (Hint: You will have to add words to make a phrase a complete sentence.)

The top of the hill seemed hours away. Nadia, her head down as she pedalled. The other bikers behind her. She looked back. Moving on the outside of the road. Breathing heavily. Her muscles in her legs. Coming to the end of the race.

2.
  - a) Why do you think phrases are more difficult to understand than sentences?
  - b) Create a list of words and phrases and then exchange your list with a partner. Challenge him or her to turn your words and phrases into complete sentences.
  - c) Circle all the subject words and underline all the action words in your partner’s sentences.
3. Explain what you think each one of these common expressions means. Rewrite those expressions that are phrases in the form of a complete sentence.
 

a) off the record	b) you said a mouthful
c) don’t eat like a horse	d) a greasy spoon
e) get off my back	f) measure up to his older sister