

Write Better Using Correct Homophones

Definition: homophone n. One of two or more words that have the same sound, but differ in spelling and meaning.

Those troublesome little homophones. My how often they seem to confuse us! When we choose the wrong word in writing it will confuse or destroy the sense of our intended meaning, perhaps even leaving our readers wondering what we meant, or where we went to school. The most commonly misused seem to be: their, there, and they're, with to, two, and too running a close second, and your, you're, right in there for top honors.

Unfortunately, spell checkers don't pick up on these as they are not misspelled, but misused. Learn to write using correct homophones.

Get a dictionary.

Look up every homophone in the list I am going to give you and learn the word and its meaning. When you write be alert to note that the word you use has a sound-a-like, and use the correct word.

Here is more:

accede, exceed; acclamation, acclimation; accrue, ecrue; ad, add; addition, edition; aid, aide; air, err, heir, ere; ant, aunt; appose, oppose; ascent, assent; ate, eight; auger, augur; awe, ah, aw; awl, all; awn, on; ball, bawl; bang, bhang; bard, barred; baron, barren; base, bass; bask, Basque; bat, batt; bate, bait; bay, bey; bail, bale; baud, bawd; bawdy, body; be, bee; beach, beech; bear, bare; beau, bow; been, bin; beet, beat; bin, been; bier, beer; bit, bitt; bite, bight; bell, belle; berth, birth; blew, blue; bloc, block; blond, blonde; body, bawdy; bogey, bogie; boll, bowl, bole; bored, board; bore, boar; born, borne, bourn; bot, bought, bott; bow, beau; bowl, bole, boll; brae, bray; brake, break; braze, braise; breech, breach; bruit, brute; brunet, brunette; bread, bred; bur, burr; bus, buss; but, butt; bye, buy, by; calendar, calender; callus, callous; came, kame; canon, cannon; cant, can't; canvas, canvass; carat, carrot, karat; carpal, carpel; cart, kart; cash, cache; cast, caste; caster, castor; cede, seed; cell, sell; censor, censor, sensor; chard, charred; cheep, cheap; chic, sheik; chock, chalk; choose, chews; choral, coral; chord, cord; chute, shoot; clack, claque; clause, claws; click, clique; clime, climb; close, clothes; clue, clew; coal, cole, kohl; coat, cote; coarse, course; cock, caulk, calk; coco, cocoa; coin, quoin; come, cum; con, khan; coo, coup; coop, coupe; cor, core, kor; cot, caught, khat, kat; creak, creek; crummy, crumby; currant, current; dam, damn; dawn, don; day, dey; days, daze; deer, dear; dew, do, due; die, dye; dine, dyne; discreet, discrete; done, dun; dough, doe, do; droop, drupe; dust, dost; dual, duel; equestrian, equestrienne; eye, aye, I; fail, faille; faint, feint; fakir, faker; fare, fair; fate, fete; fawn, faun; faze, phase; feet, feat; fey, fay; fiancee, fiancé; fir, fur; flee, flea; floe, flow; flue, flew; forth, fourth; foul, fowl; four, fore, for; fort, forte; freeze, frieze; friar, fryer, frier; gaff, gaffe; gait, gate gaud, god; gel, jell; gene, jean; gib, jib; got, ghat; grate, great; in, inn; ha, haw, hah; hail, hale; have, halve; hay, hey; hair, hare; haul, hall; heart, hart; heel, heal; here, hear; herd, heard; heroin, heroine; hew, hue; high, hie, hi, heigh; hoar, whore, hor; hoarse, horse; hock, hawk; hoe, ho; hole, whole; hoop, whoop; horde, hoard; hour, our; I'll, isle, aisle; in, inn; its, it's; jam, jamb; jest, gest, geste; jive, gyve; karat, carrot, caret, carat; kernel, colonel; key, quay; knight, night; knit, nit; lac, lack; lade, laid; lain, lane; lam, lamb; lama, llama; lay, lei; lead, lied; lead, led; lean, lien; leek, leak; leech, leach; liar, lyre; lie, lye; lief, leaf; limb, limn; links, lynx; lo, low; lock, loch; locks, lox; lode, load; lone, loan; loot, lute; lumber, lumbar; lune, loon; mach, mock; madam, madame; made, maid; mail, male; maize, maze; mall, maul, moll; mane, main; mask,

masque; mean, mien; medal, meddle; meet, meat, mete; metal, mettle; marry, merry; might, mite
miner, minor; mol, mole; mode, mowed; moral, morel; moo, moue; moose, mousse; mordent,
mordant; more, moor; morn, mourn; morning, mourning; mote, moat; mow, mot; mown, moan;
mucous, mucus; muscle, mussel; naval, navel; nay, nee, neigh; need, knead, kneed; new, knew,
gnu; nice, gneiss; no, know; nose, knows; not, knot, naught, nought; nun, none; one, won; or,
ore, oar; oriole, aureole; O, oh, owe; pain, pane; pail, pale; palate, palette, pallet; par, parr; paw,
pa; pause, paws, pa's; pea, pee; peak, peek, pique; pear, pare, pair; pearl, purl; peal, peel; pew,
pew; picks, pyx; pie, pi; pier, peer; pique, piquet; place, plaice; plate, plait; pole, poll; pour,
poor, pore; premier, premiere; prey, pray; prize, pries; prier, prior; plaice, place; plain, plane;
plum, plumb; quean, queen; queue, cue; rabbit, rabbet; rack, wrack; rah, raw; rain, reign, rein;
raise, raze, rays; real, reel; red, read; reed, read; reek, wreak; rest, wrest; retch, wretch; rhyme,
rime; roc, rock; roe, row; rode, road; roll, role; rood, rude; room, rheum; root, route, rout; rough,
ruff; rung, wrung; sac, sack; sal, sol; sale, sail; sane, seine; scald, skald; sea, see, si; sear, cere,
seer; seek, sikh; seem, seam; seen, scene; sense, cents; sent, cent, scent; serf, surf; sheer, shear;
shire, shier; shofar, chauffeur; shoo, shoe; shore, sure; sic, sick; sine, sign; site, sight, cite; slay,
sleigh; slew, slough, slue; sloe, slow; so, sew, sow; sole, soul; some, sum; son, sun; sore, soar;
sorry, sori; sot, sought; spits, spitz; staff, staph; steak, stake; steal, steel; stile, style; stock, stalk;
stoop, stoup; strait, straight; Sunday, sundae; surf, serf; surge, serge; swath, swathe; sweet, suite;
sync, sink; tail, tale, tael; taw, tau; tea, tee; team, teem; tear, tier; tear, tare; tern, turn; there, their,
they're; threw, through; throe, throw; tic, tick; time, thyme; tit, teat; toad, toed, towed; to, too,
two; toe, tow; toll, tole; tolled, told; ton, tun; top, taup; tort, torte; tot, taught, taut; tour, tore, tor;
toxin, tocsin; tray, trey; turnup, turnip; urn, earn, erne, ern; vale, veil; vane, vain, vein; vary, very;
vice, vise; vile, vial; wain, wane; wait, weight; wale, whale, wail; walk, wok; waste, waist; wave,
waive; way, weigh, whey; weave, we've; we, wee; week, weak; weal, wheel, we'll; wen, when;
wether, weather, whether; wheel, wheal; where, ware, wear; whet, wet; while, wile; whir, were;
whirl, whorl; whit, wit; whose, who's; win, whin; wine, whine; wise, whys; wiz, whiz; witch,
which; with, withe; woe, whoa; won't, wont; wont, want; wood, would; worst, wurst; wrap, rap;
wright, rite, right, write; wrought, rot; wrote, rote; wry, rye; yoke, yolk; you, ewe, yew; your,
you're, yore

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