



## TENDENCIES OF TEACHING ENGLISH CONFUSING WORDS THROUGH DISTINCTIVE INNOVATIVE METHODS

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Most English learners are on the same page in terms of confusing with homophones. Just before talking about why confusing words as well as homophones are worrying both non-native language learners and even sometimes native speakers, we should clarify what these phenomena mean .

For example, a professor of Harvard University Alfonzo Caramazza emphasized that homophones are current models of word production and they offer different accounts of the representation of homophones in the lexicon. Homophones are such words as hare-hair which have identical sounds but different meanings as another case in point.[1]

Whereas, confusing words are informal term for two or more words that are easily confused with one another because of similarities in spelling, whereas the pronunciation is same. [2]

Most people have a tendency to misuse confusing words in the English language. There are different reasons why some words are often confused. The following is a short list of these reasons:

1. Some words have different spellings but the same pronunciation;
2. Some words have similar spellings and pronunciations;
3. Some words are mispronounced.

Words often confused can be pair, groups.[3] For instance, in the English language, there are many words that sound alike but have completely different meanings, which can cause a lot of issues for beginners. The solution is to study and practice them all, and that is why we come across. [4]

Jennifer Gunner from California\*, M.Ed. Education, Senior writer claims that it happens all the time. You are writing a paper or texting a friend and have to ask yourself, " Is it affect or effect? A while or awhile?"[5]

Sometimes, even the most seasoned writers have to stop and do a quick Google search to double-check themselves. If you take a moment to study commonly confused words, you might be able to compose your text paper or text without having to stop and chat with Google. [6]

English is filled with words that look alike or sound alike (or both), but mean very different things — so it's easy to get confused and use the wrong word at the wrong moment. As "word nerds" and podcast hosts of NPR's "You're Saying it Wrong," we're constantly on the lookout for these mistakes. And we have seen them everywhere, from corporate reports, resumes and cover letters, to major publications. But if you are aware of the different meanings of these words, you won't fall into the same traps.[7]



Confusing words are those which are often misused or have more than one meaning. Thus, they create a lot of confusion while using them in a sentence. These words can be both, homonyms as well as homophones. Homonyms are the words which have the same spelling but different meanings, whereas homophones are the words which have the same pronunciation but different meanings. [8]

**The list of confusing words.**

1. Shall – shell
2. Force – fourth
3. Will – we'll
4. See – sea
5. Sad – said
6. Oval – owl
7. Your – you're
8. Male – mail
9. Coarse – course
10. Berth – birth
11. Bole – boil
12. Serial – cereal
13. Ale – ail
14. Close – cloth
15. Litter – liter
16. For – four
17. Accept – except
18. Along – a long
19. Effect – affect
20. Bought – boat
21. Then – than
22. They're – their
23. Hurt – heart
24. Write – right
25. Land – lend
26. Minor – miner
27. Loose – lose
28. Hale – hail
29. Grin – green
30. Genes – jeans
31. Ensure – insure
32. Better – batter
33. Merry – marry
34. Mil – mill
35. Houses – hoses
36. Alter – altar
37. Bawl – bowl



38. Back – beck
39. Ant – aunt
40. Beer – bare
41. Light – lite
42. Fare fair
43. Flour – flower
44. Falk – folk

### Exercise 1

Match 1, 2... with a, b... homophones according to their pronunciation.

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Shall | a. We'll  |
| 2. Force | b. Sea    |
| 3. Will  | c. Shell  |
| 4. See   | d. Fourth |
| 5. Sad   | e. You're |
| 6. Oval  | f. Said   |
| 7. Your  | g. Mail   |
| 8. Male  | h. Bored  |
| 9. Bored | j. Owl    |

Answers: 1 c, 2 d, 3 a, 4 b, 5 f, 6 j, 7 e, 8 g, 9 h.

A short guideness for how to do exercises effectively. First, it is suggested to give a try to solve activities based on confusing words one by one independently without any dictionary. Then, having known about your overall score, you can make your knowledge stronger by analysing correctly and honestly. This way, you are highly advised paying more attention on eliminating mistakes of confusing words in writing, because sometimes a learner may be in two minds to write a particular confusing word.

### Exercise 2

Complete gaps with an appropriate word from the above Exercise 1

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ more take advantage of studying in distance in the future than nowadays.
2. Mr. Swift, our friend has just gone to university, \_\_\_\_\_ prepare his birthday party until he comes back.
3. Our grammar teacher is using electronic \_\_\_\_\_ to show slides.
4. Ann is waiting for the \_\_\_\_\_ of October which is her first year of wedding anniversary.
5. I wonder if you got out of your \_\_\_\_\_. Because it seems too difficult for you to change yourself.
6. Nobody has a right to \_\_\_\_\_ you legally, if so, you can undoubtedly call to an emergency service.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ we take a two-week holiday this week that we have been looking forward for a year.
8. In psychology lesson every student is all ears that is why no one gets \_\_\_\_\_.



9. We moved to the USA by the \_\_\_\_\_.  
10. It is \_\_\_\_\_ that so many of his paintings have been lost.  
11. \_\_\_\_\_ the most brilliant, attractive girl in the class and each student respects you a lot.  
12. Receptionists use to \_\_\_\_\_ people from different angels.  
13. The plant has \_\_\_\_\_ leaves marbled with brownish-purple.  
14. John has \_\_\_\_\_ to his close friend about the breaking new on television.  
15. Stone farm buildings are an ideal nesting site for an \_\_\_\_\_.  
16. Here is \_\_\_\_\_ fiction book that I borrowed three days ago.  
17. Most people check regularly for new \_\_\_\_\_.  
18. The police are looking for a tall white \_\_\_\_\_ with dark hair.  
Answers: 1. will, 2 we'll, 3 board, 4 fourth, 5 shell, 6 force, 7 Shall, 8 bored, 9 sea, 10 sad, 11 You're, 12 see, 13 oval, 14 said, 15 owl, 16 your, 17 mail, and 18 male.

### Exercise 3

Match the words with their definitions

Q1. 1) coarse 2) course

a. rough or harsh in texture

b. a series of lectures or lessons in a particular subject

Q2. 1) berth 2) birth

a. a ship's allotted place at a wharf or dock

b. the emergence of a baby or other young from the body of its mother

Q3. 1) bole 2) boil

a. reach or cause to reach the temperature at which it bubbles and turns to vapor

b. the trunk of a tree

Q4. 1) serial 2) cereal

a. a grain used for food (wheat, maize, rye)

b. consisting of, forming part of, or taking place in series.

Q5. 1) ale 2) ail

a. trouble or afflict someone in mind or body

b. any beer other than larger, stout or porter.

Answers: Q1 (1 a, 2 b); Q2 (1 a, 2 b); Q3 (1 b, 2 a); Q4 (1 b, 2 a); Q5 (1 b, 2 a)

### Exercise 4

Choose the best answer.

Q1) a. Would you please, close/cloth the window for me?

b. You look perfect with this close/cloth tonight so let me take you out for a meal.

Q2) a. It is fine for people who drop litter/liter to trash.

b. My car does 45 km to litter/liter one gallon of fuel.

Q3) a. John headed diagonally across the paddock vaulting style/stile.

b. My friend read the fashion pages in the newspaper last night in order to keep up with the latest style/stile.



Q4) a. There were over fifty applicants for/four a job.

b. We need for/four people to make up a team.

Q5) a. It is difficult to accept/except this change.

b. School students in most countries go to their educational institution accept/except Sunday.

Q6) a. I looked along/a long shelves for the book I needed

b. We are still along/a long way from the station.

Q7) a. Everyone would be grateful for a praise/prize for their speech.

b. She has achieved her long-awaited dream that is receiving the World Cup on chess.

Q8) a. Scientists are worried about the effect/affect of the rate of deforestation in the upcoming five years.

b. Some spoilt children effect/affect on their classmates' behavior

Q9) a. I cannot believe in this girl as she has bad characteristics.

b. Having blamed at herself, she was crying on bad because of her unforgettable and considerable mistake.

Q10) a. You have bought/boat different kinds of clothes costing 300 pounds from an online shop.

b. Let's take a bought/boat and do fishing on it.

Answers: Q1 (a. close; b. cloth), Q2 (a. litter; b. liter), Q3 (a. stile; b. style), Q4 (a. for; b. four), Q5 (a. accept; b. except), Q6. (a. along; b. a long), Q7 (a. praise; b. prize), Q8 (a. effect; b. affect), Q9 (a. bed; b. bad), Q10 (a. bought; b. boat).

### Exercise 5

Find words with their the pairs of homophones in bold to correct the meaning of sentences.

1. John is more sociable **then** his father.

2. **They're** timetable is well completed.

3. Ironing a **close** takes no more than five minutes in general.

4. The author tried to come back within two hours to **right** his novel.

5. Can I **land** your colored pencils for a day?

6. The patient's **hurt** stopped beating for a few seconds.

7. **Minor** went on a strike to try to well-paid job.

8. A man wants to **loose** weight and balance a diet.

9. We drove through **hale** and snow.

10. I put my new **grin** shirt and white blouse in a hot wash and the color ran.

11. I never wear **genes** for work and official meetings.

12. The airline is taking steps to **ensure** safety on its aircraft.

13. This wine would be a nice **compliment** to grilled dish.

14. I will sing the verses and I would like you all to join in the **cores**.

15. The weather is **batter** today than it was yesterday.

16. His face was round and his eyes were **marry**.

17. This **mil** can be seen grinding wheat.



18. The firefighters trained their houses on the burning building.

Answers: 1. than, 2. their, 3. cloth, 4. write, 5. lend, 6. heart, 7. miner, 8. lose, 9. hail, 10. green, 11. jeans, 12. insure, 13. complement, 14. chorus, 15. better, 16. merry, 17. mill, 18. hoses.

### *Exercise 6*

Match the words with their definitions.

a. Alter   b. bawl   c. back   d. ail   e. ant   f. ale  
g. aunt   h. altar   i. beck   j. bowl   k. bear   l. bare

1. A small insect typically having a sting and living in a complex social colony.
  2. Trouble or afflict someone in mind or body.
  3. Be able to accept or stand up to, endure
  4. The rear surface of the human body from the shoulders to the hips.
  5. The table in a Christian church at which wine and bread are consecrated in communion services.
  6. A round deep dish or basin used for food or liquid.
  7. Any beer other than larger, stout, or porter.
  8. Not clothed or covered (of a person or part of the body).
  9. Shout or call out noisily.
  10. Change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way.
  11. A gesture requesting attention, such as a nod or wave.
  12. The sister of one's mother or father.
- Answers: 1 e, 2 d, 3 k, 4 c, 5 h, 6 j, 7 f, 8 l, 9 b, 10 a, 11 i, 12 g.

### *Exercise 7*

Choose the best answer

1. \_\_\_\_\_ went on a strike to try to save jobs.  
a. Minor  
b. b. Miner
2. There were some \_\_\_\_\_ wires hanging out of the wall  
a. loose  
b. lose
3. Coconut milk is one of the few plant products that is high saturated fat, so it is better to use a \_\_\_\_\_ or lowfat version.  
a. light  
b. lite
4. If you need a coat, I can \_\_\_\_\_ you one.  
a. lend  
b. land
5. I could feel my \_\_\_\_\_ pounding in my chest,  
a. hurt  
b. heart
6. They are planning to fly to \_\_\_\_\_.



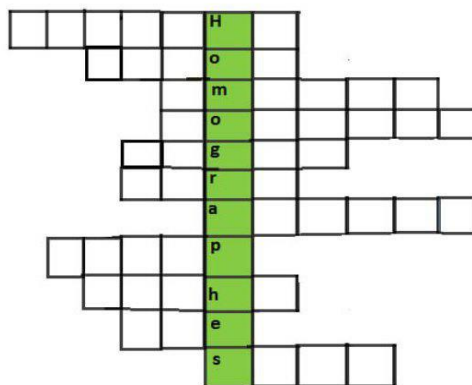
- a. Hungary
- b. hungry
7. It is a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ but a bit too frisky for an inexperienced rider.
  - a. hoarse
  - b. horse
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ justice system is a fundamental part of a civilized society.
  - a. fare
  - b. fair
9. Mix \_\_\_\_\_ with cold water until you get a uniform mass
  - a. flour
  - b. flower
10. I used to listen \_\_\_\_\_ music.
  - a. Falk
  - b. folk

Answers: 1 b, 2 a, 3 b, 4 a, 5 b, 6 a, 7 b, 8 b, 9 a, 10 a.

### Exercise 8

Do the puzzle.

1. A current of cool air in a room or other confined space.
2. Lesser in importance, seriousness or significance.
3. Lacking of a moral sense.
4. Give an authoritative order.
5. One more than or two less than ten.
6. Not clothed or covered (of a person or part of the body).
7. The means of opportunity to approach or enter a place.
8. Low in price, especially in relation to similar items or services.
9. The faculty or power of seeing.
10. A payment made to a professional person, to a professional or public body in exchange for advice or service.
  - II. Give or hand over in exchange for money.



Answers: 1. Draught, 2. Minor, 3. Amoral, 4. Command, 5. Eight, 6. Bare, 7. Access, 8. Cheap, 9. Sight, 10. Fee, 11. Sell.



In conclusion, all the methods above help students to achieve the goal on get phonetic rules of confusing words. Having finished all activities in depth and with full of attention, it can be far easier to write most of the confusing words correctly without any spelling mistakes. Moreover, they will be capable of getting considerably highest results and make as minimum mistakes as possible. As for teachers, they will be able to use these methods during the class in order to make the lessons engaging. The reason is why our new generations are so attentive to learn the foreign language with sophistication that the cannot conduct lessons without any new approach at times.

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