

Grade 10

Top 8 Most Confusing Homophones

Homophones are the words which have the same pronunciation but are spelled differently and have different meanings. To use a correct homophone at the right place you need to practice it.

Affect/effect:

‘Affect’ is used to indicate influence whereas ‘effect’ is a noun which means to cause or to bring about.

For example:

The herbal medicine **affected** her as anticipated (not effected)

The medicine has negative side **effects** (not affects).

Except/Accept:

‘Accept’ is used as a verb which means to receive and ‘except’ is a preposition which means to exclude.

For example:

We **accept** donations for orphanage. (not expect)

He was present all the days **except** Saturday (not accept)

Break/Brake:

‘Brake’ is a verb which means to stop and when used as a noun it refers to a device which is used for slow down or to stop a motion. ‘Break’ is used when something is shattered or smashed or when somebody takes recess.

For example:

They had healthy snacks at tea **break**. (not brake), Handle it with care, it is breakable (not brakeable)

The bike toppled because of the failure of **brakes**. (not breaks)

Compliment/Complement:

‘Complement’ is used to refer something which enhances or completes whereas ‘compliment’ is used as an expression for praising someone.

For example:

Eggs are healthy **complement** to the breakfast. (not compliment)

She keeps on getting **compliments** about her good looks. (not complement)

Lie/Lay:

‘Lie’ is used for indicating the act of reclining whereas you use lay to indicate how something is placed. ‘Lay’ is a transitive verb that needs an object. On the other hand ‘lie’ does not need an object. To lie can be changed into lie, lay, lain, lying and to lay changes into lays, laid and laying etc.

For example:

This hen **lays** eggs every day.

He **lies** down on the bed.

Capitol/capital:

‘Capital’ is referred to the city, to the upper case and also for money whereas ‘capitol’ is the rendezvous of lawmakers.

For example:

The **capital** of Maharashtra is Mumbai.

The **capitol** is undergoing extensive renovation.

Principal/principle:

‘Principle’ is a noun which denotes law or the basic truth. It should not be confused with the ‘principal’ who is the head of institutions and organizations or a particular sum of money.

For example:

The **principal** of this college is a renowned person.

As a **principle**, all the things thrown upwards come down because of gravity.

Whether/weather:

‘Weather’ is used to refer the present atmosphere whereas ‘whether’ is used as a conjunction for introducing choices.

For example:

The cold **weather** made me fall sick.

Whether you believe it or not, I had an encounter with death today.

Worksheet:

Fill the following blanks with a suitable word:

It was a pleasant outside.

..... early or delayed, justice will be done.

I met the yesterday and scheduled the meeting.

There are certain which are to be kept by everyone.

We hard cash only.

..... his drinking, he does not have any other vices.

The thief opens the door and entered of the bike are beyond repair now.

He was badly by the demise of his father.

Let us see if it has positive

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Answers:

Weather

Whether

Principal

Principles

Accept

Except

Breaks

Brakes

Affected

Effect