


Year 1 Homophones:

A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to homophones can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring homophones together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is only just beginning to explore what homophones are, or is comfortable with the concept and wants to discover more, you will find a step that matches where your child is at as well as some ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

What Are Homophones?

As your child's confidence with writing increases, they will begin to learn about homophones. 'Homophone' literally means 'same sound'. A homophone is part of a set of two or more words that have the same pronunciation (regardless of how they are spelt) but have different meanings. Examples of homophones include:

some and sum or and oar knew and new

Some homophones have the same pronunciation and the same spelling (homonyms) but have different meanings. Examples include:

bat (mammals with wings) and bat (as in cricket bat)

pen (instrument to write with) and pen (a place where animals are kept)

box (as in a cuboid) and box (as in the sport)

Your child will probably not explore homophones in great detail during year 1, as they are not a national curriculum requirement at this level. However, they may come across common homophones when they are reading and writing, such as their, there and they're.

As well as using the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with homophones, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn about homophones, their meanings and spellings are outlined below.

Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. As you are reading with your child, point out words that have two meanings and discuss the term 'homophone'. Can they identify other words that have a different meaning when they are spelt differently?

Homophones Race

Write homophones on separate pieces of paper and stick them around the room. Ask your child to race to find and touch the homophone that corresponds to the word you write out for them on a mini-whiteboard or piece of paper.

Memory Game

Mix up and spread out a selection of homophone cards on the table face down. Ask your child to turn over a card then try and find the corresponding homophone, trying to remember where cards are each time.

Silly Sentences

Ask your child to think of sentences which include two homophones, for example: The boy blew into the balloon until he was blue in the face. Or: The maid made a delicious chocolate cake. The sillier the sentence the better!

Step 1

What Are Homophones?

In year 1, your child will begin to explore some different word types, including homophones. They will begin to understand that some words can be pronounced the same way but may have different meanings and spellings. This PowerPoint explains exactly what homophones are and gives plenty of visual examples – a great place to start when starting to explore homophones with your child at home.



Homophone Definitions

Once your child has understood what the term 'homophone' means, they can start to collect different examples of homophones and discuss their meanings by placing the word in context. These homophone matching cards have excellent visual examples of a range of homophones for your child to practise matching up so that they can learn their different meanings.

Step 2



Step 3

Spelling Homophones

Your child will now start to think about and learn how to spell different sets of homophones correctly. You could look at this list of year 1 common exception words (words that do not follow the common phonetic spelling rules) together and pick examples of words which have corresponding homophones, for example 'to' can be matched with 'too' and 'two'. Can they spot any other words on the list that are homophones?

Homophones in Sentences

Your child will start to use homophones correctly in sentences. They will begin to use common homophones - such as there, they're and their - in the right context and will be able to discuss the meaning of homophones when they are reading. This activity encourages your child to think carefully about the correct word to use in a range of different sentences, helping them to practise their spelling and deepen their understanding.

Step 4



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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