

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

HOMOPHONES LESSON ONE

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students should understand that...
 - a. “Homophones” are pairs of words that sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings.
 - b. Homophones are commonly misspelled in student writing and should therefore always be double-checked during proofreading.
2. Students should be able to...
 - a. Match common homophones to their definitions.
 - b. Recognize misspelled homophones in another person’s writing.
 - c. Correctly spell common homophones in their own writing.
 - i. There, their, they’re; Your, you’re; Where, were, wear, we’re; Its, It’s; Here, hear; To, two, too; Which, witch

LITERATURE:

This unit contains example selections from the novel *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

In each sentence below, choose the correct answer from the list of “homophones”:

1. A (**witch / which**) named Glenda had a friend named Brenda.
2. They decided to take a ride on (**there / their / they're**) broomsticks.
3. “(**Where / Wear**) would you like to fly tonight?” Brenda asked.
4. “I don’t care,” Glenda said. “(**Its / It’s**) up to you.”
5. Glenda said, “I (**here / hear**) children laughing. Let’s go turn them into gingerbread and dip them in milk!”
6. “Glenda, (**your / you’re**) disgusting,” Brenda said. “Let’s go get some tofu burgers instead.”
7. And the (**to / two / too**) old ladies soared away into the night.

Word decoding:

8. List three words containing the root word “phon.”
9. Based on the words you came up with, what do you think the root word “phon” means?
10. The prefix “homo” means “same;” combine that with the meaning of “phon” and take a guess at the meaning of the word “homophone.”

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **CATALOGUE CREATOR:** The suffix “-ness” means “state or quality of being.” How many words can you list that contain this suffix?

Which two words make up the following contractions?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. They're = They + ? | 3. It's = ? + ? |
| 2. You're = ? + ? | 4. We're = ? + ? |

Notice how the **apostrophe** in these contractions takes the place of a missing letter: **They + are** becomes **They're** (the **a** becomes **'**). Remember that when you're spelling contractions.

Fix any incorrect words in the example sentences from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (if it's already correct, just write "CORRECT"):

5. "Once **its** in the soup, I'll call it beef," Greasy Sae says with a wink.
6. But **there** are others, too, who have no one they love at stake, or who no longer care.
7. "Look how we take **you're** children and sacrifice them and **their** is nothing you can do."
8. We don't hunt them on purpose, but if **your** attacked and you take out a dog or two, well, **it's** still meat.
9. Twelve **we're** defeated, the thirteenth obliterated.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

DISSIMILITUDE

(diversity or difference)

In your own words...

1. Why are word sets like there/they're/their and your/you're called **homophones**?
2. Why do contractions like **they're**, **you're**, and **it's** have an apostrophe in them?

Write your own sentences that correctly use the following words:

3. Hear
4. Too
5. Its
6. Their

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FOUR-LETTER WORDS:** Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take *that* word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take *that* word and... You get the picture.

FAIL

The words **here**, **there**, and **where** all have similar spellings and all refer to something's placement or location. Remember that when choosing which homophone to use in a given situation.

Which homophone would you choose in the following situations:

1. When talking about something **they** own (they're / their / there)
2. When talking about something **it** owns (its / it's)
3. When talking about something **you** own (your / you're)
4. Asking someone to choose between **two options** (which / witch)

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins:

“District Twelve. Wear you can starve to death in safety, I mutter. Than I glance quickly over my shoulder. even hear, even in the middle of nowhere, you worry someone might here you.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **VOWEL COMBINATOR:** The vowel combination “**ow**” can sound like the hard “O” in “go” or the “ow” in “wow.” List as many words as you can that contain this vowel combo making the hard “O” sound.

REVIEW FOR TODAY'S QUIZ—Make sure you know the difference between the following homophones:

1. Witch / Which
2. There / Their / They're
3. Where / Wear
4. Its / It's
5. Here / Hear
6. Your / You're
7. To / Two / Too

Match the following words to the best definition or explanation of when you would use it:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1. Witch | a) Asking someone to choose between two options |
| 2. Which | b) Talking about something that belongs to them |
| 3. Their | c) Short for " they are " |
| 4. There | d) An old lady on a broomstick who casts spells |
| 5. They're | e) A location far away from you |
| ----- | |
| 6. Its | a) Short for " you are " |
| 7. It's | b) Talking about something that belongs to it |
| 8. Your | c) Asking for the location of something |
| 9. You're | d) Short for " it is " |
| 10. Where | e) Talking about something that belongs to you |
| 11. Wear | f) When you put something on, like clothes or glasses |
| ----- | |
| 12. Here | a) A location right next to you |
| 13. Hear | b) The number between one and three |
| 14. Two | c) " Also " or when you have more than you need |
| 15. Too | d) One of the senses; something you do with your ear |

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:
TVOE BTORO PPSARE ELGELC FLUCLORO

Write your own sentences that correctly use the following words:

1. Wear
2. Your
3. To
4. Which

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (could be five, depending on how you fix one of them):

Madge shoots him a look, trying to see if its a genuine compliment or if he's just being ironic. It *is* a pretty dress but she would never be whereing it ordinarily she presses her lips and together then smiles.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **ANAGRAM:** Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

WRY CONEY KIT

(Hint: place)

Read the excerpts from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins and then answer the following questions:

The result was Panem, a shining Capitol ringed by thirteen districts, which brought peace and prosperity to it's citizens.

1. Why is the word "Panem" capitalized?
2. Is the "which" on the second line used correctly?
3. List all the verbs in this sentence (there are two of them).
4. Is the "it's" on the second line used correctly?

There has never been anything romantic between Gale and me. When we met, I was a skinny twelve-year-old, and although he was only too years older, he already looked like a man.

5. Is the word "There" in the first sentence used correctly?
6. Is the word "skinny" on the second line a noun, adjective, or pronoun?
7. Is the "too" in the second sentence used correctly?
8. List all the pronouns in this selection (there are at least four).

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT LETTERS:** Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

D A D O R I E N

**DRY
FOUR**

HOMOPHONES LESSON ONE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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QUIZ

HOMOPHONES LESSON ONE

NAME:

PERIOD:

Choose the best answer or match:

1. ____ Define the word "homophone."
A. A word has the same ending sound as another word
B. Two words that are spelled almost the same and have a similar meaning
C. A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning and spelling
D. A word that means the same as another word but has a different origin
2. ____ You're **A.** In this place or at this spot
3. ____ Your **B.** A contraction meaning "it is"
4. ____ It's **C.** Something belongs to "you"
5. ____ Its **D.** To perceive sound with your ear
6. ____ Hear **E.** A contraction meaning "you are"
7. ____ Here **F.** Something belongs to "it"

Choose the sentence that correctly uses the homophone:

8. **A.** I watched *Gladiator*, which is my favorite movie.
B. Gladiators did not have magical powers like whiches.
9. **A.** Their are several movies and books about gladiators.
B. Gladiators are cool because they're strong and brave.
10. **A.** Gladiators fought each other and animals, two.
B. Sometimes the audience got to choose the loser's fate.

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B. Sometimes the audience got to choose the loser's fate.

11. **A.** I visited the Colosseum, where the games took place.
B. Some gladiators would wear armor; others fought nearly naked.

For each sentence below, choose the correct homophone.

12. Gladiator fights offered an exciting spectacle for **(there / their / they're)** audiences.
13. **(Your / You're)** not likely to see a real gladiator fight anywhere in the world today.
14. Rome was the place **(where / wear / we're)** most gladiator fights were held.
15. **(Its / It's)** hard to believe that spectators would enjoy watching the contestants kill each other.
16. During a fight, the Colosseum would get so loud you could barely **(here / hear)** anything.
17. It wasn't very common, but there were female gladiators, **(to / two / too)**.
18. Rome eventually became a Christian empire, **(which / witch)** is one reason gladiator fighting ended.
19. Sometimes **(there / their / they're)** were also comedic fights between contestants in silly costumes.
20. Gladiators had to **(where / wear / we're)** protective clothing to keep from being wounded easily.
21. Many fights pitted **(to / two / too)** men against each other, and they fought to the death.
22. If **(your / you're)** a Roman gladiator, you might be killed.

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NAME:

PERIOD:

Read the following article about Roman Gladiators. When you come to a bold group of homophones, choose the correct word.

If **(your / you're)** interested in seeing an intense sporting event today, you can go **(two / too / to)** a football game or watch a boxing match. In ancient Rome, the most exciting sporting event was gladiator fighting.

The word "gladiator" comes from the Latin word "gladius," **(which / witch)** means "sword." Gladiators were armed combatants who entered an arena **(wear / where)** they **(would / wood)** fight against other gladiators, condemned criminals, or sometimes even wild animals. Contests ranged from as small as **(two / too / to)** gladiators fighting one another to small armies engaging in mock battles.

Many of these contests were fights **(two / too / to)** the death. But it was often left to the spectators to decide **(whether / weather)** or not a losing gladiator should be killed **(buy / by / bye)** the winner or **(aloud / allowed)** to live.

Although **(sum / some)** gladiators were free men fighting **(for / four)** fame or valor, most were either slaves or prisoners.

(It's / its) not exactly clear when gladiator fighting started, but **(their / there / they're)** is evidence that it might have originally **(bin / been)** a funeral rite. More and more Romans began to **(here / hear)** about the exciting fights, and **(it's / its)** popularity **(led / lead)** to the expensive and extravagant spectacles we **(know / no)** as "gladiatorial games." The games reached **(their / there / they're)** peak between the 1st century BCE and the 2nd century CE.

Gladiator fighting became hugely popular and a booming business. The games were held in Rome and surrounding areas, **(two / to / too)**.

Some of Rome's emperors even participated in the games. **(Won / One)** in particular, Emperor Commodus, was **(so / sew)** fanatical about the gladiatorial games that he fought often and gave himself the title "Hercules Reborn." Of **(coarse / course)**, Commodus never allowed himself to **(be / bee)** in any **(reel / real)** danger; he **(wood / would)** kill helpless animals or men who were either crippled or **(tide / tied)** up.

Gladiator fights became **(to / two / too)** much of a financial burden to the Empire, and the games began to diminish. As Christianity became the state religion of the Rome, the violent sport was seen as murderous and evil, **(witch / which)** eventually led to the practice being officially **(band / banned)**.

Write a short story on the prompt below. Within your story, correctly use *at least 15 different homophone words*. Underline each homophone word within your story.

PROMPT: *Imagine you are a Roman gladiator that has just entered the arena to fight to the death.*

NAME:

PERIOD:

Read the following excerpts from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. When you come to a bold group of homophones, choose the correct word.

I prop myself up on one elbow. **(There's / Theirs / They're)** enough light in the bedroom to **(sea / see)** them. My little sister, Prim, curled up on her side, cocooned in my mother's body, **(there / their / there)** cheeks pressed together. In sleep, my mother looks younger, still **(warn / worn)** but not **(sew / so)** beaten-down. Prim's face is as fresh as a raindrop, as lovely as the primrose for **(which / witch)** she was named. My mother was very beautiful once, **(two / to / too)**. Or so they tell me.

When I was younger, I scared my mother to death, the things I **(wood / would)** blurt out about District 12, about the people who rule **(are / our)** country, Panem, from the far-off city called the **(Capitol / Capital)**. Eventually I understood this **(wood / would)** only lead us **(to / too)** more trouble. So I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that **(know / no)** one could ever **(read / reed)** my thoughts. Do my work quietly in school. Make only polite small talk in the public market. Discuss little more than trades in the Hob, **(which / witch)** is the black market **(wear / where)** I make most of my money. Even at home, **(wear / where)** I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics. Like the reaping, or food shortages, or the Hunger Games. Prim **(might / mite)** begin to repeat my words and then where would we be?

In the woods waits the only person with whom I can **(bee / be)** myself. Gale. I can feel the muscles in my face relaxing, my pace quickening as I climb the hills to **(our / hour / are)** place, a rock ledge overlooking a valley. A thicket of berry bushes protects it from unwanted eyes. The **(site / sight)** of him waiting **(there / their)** brings on a smile. Gale says I never smile except in the woods.

(They're / There) not our kids, of course. But they might as well be. Gale's **(too / two)** little brothers and a sister. Prim. And you may as well throw in our mothers, **(to / too)**, because how **(wood / would)** they live without us? Who would fill those mouths that are always asking for more? With both of us hunting daily, **(there / their / they're)** are still nights when game has to be swapped **(four / for)** lard or shoelaces or wool, still **(nights / knights)** when we go to bed with our stomachs growling.

Gale **(knows / no's)** his anger at Madge is misdirected. On other **(days / daze)**, deep in the woods, I've listened to him rant about how the tesserae are just another tool to cause misery in **(hour / our)** district. A way to plant hatred between the starving workers of the Seam and those who can generally count on supper and thereby ensure we will never trust **(won / one)** another. "**(Its / It's)** to the **(Capitol's / Captial's)** advantage to have us divided among ourselves," he might say if **(their / there / they're)** were no ears to **(here / hear)** but mine. If it wasn't reaping day.

Fix any incorrect bold words in the example sentences from The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins (if the bold word is already correct, just write "CORRECT").

1. _____ The square's surrounded by shops, and on public market days, especially if **there** is good weather, it has a holiday feel to it.
2. _____ The crowd responds with **it's** token applause, but he's confused and tries to give Effie Trinket a big hug, which she barely manages to fend off.
3. _____ We don't hunt them on purpose, but if **you're** attacked and you take out a dog or two, well, meat is meat.
4. _____ Latecomers are directed to the adjacent streets, **where** they can watch the even on screens as it's televised live by the state.
5. _____ Most of the Peacekeepers turn a blind eye to the few of us who hunt because **their** as hungry for fresh meat as anybody is.
6. _____ The last thing I needed was another mouth **two** feed.
7. _____ The crowd draws in a collective breath and then you can **here** a pin drop.
8. _____ "Happy Hunger Games! And may the odds be ever in **your** favor!"
9. _____ This is the Capitol's way of reminding us how totally we are at **they're** mercy.
10. _____ It's **too** bad, really, that they hold the reaping in the square—one of the few places in District 12 that can be pleasant.
11. _____ Primps face is as fresh as a raindrop, as lovely as the primrose for **witch** she was named.
12. _____ My mother **where's** a fine dress from her apothecary days.
13. _____ **Its** the same story every year.
14. _____ She goes on a bit about what an honor it is to be **here**, although everyone knows she's just aching to get bumped up to a better district.
15. _____ But since we're lucky if we get **to** or three hours of electricity in the evenings, the fence is usually safe to touch.
16. _____ From this place, we are invisible but have a clear view of the valley, **which** is teeming with summer life.