

# Literacy Moments: Improving your English!





Have you heard of this word before?

# Homophone

From the Greek 'homos'  
meaning 'same'.

From the Greek 'phon' meaning  
'sound'.

The word literally means 'same sound'.

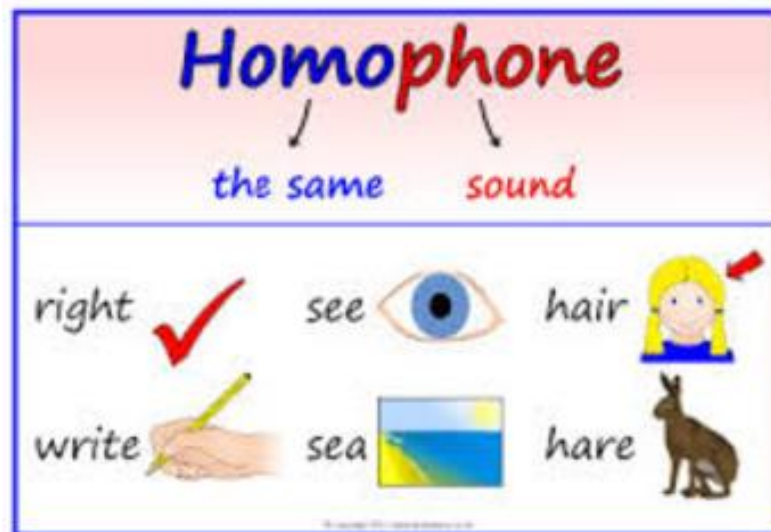
Remember its meaning?

Challenge: What is the **simplest** way you can define it?

# Homophones...

These are words which **sound the same** but are **spelled differently** and have **different meanings**.

Because they sound the same, they are easy to get wrong. Therefore, it's really important to understand different homophones and how to use them correctly in sentences, otherwise your meaning may become unclear!



Why do you think I want to look at  
these two words...?

**Your**

**You're**

This is one of the most common mistakes that we see when marking pupils' work. It is also **easily avoidable** with a little bit of thought!

Take a look at this...

Does it make the meanings clear?

**Your:** That's **your** dad.

**You're:** **You're** going to need some steak.

They are **homophones** and so sound the same, which may explain why people make so many mistakes.

**BUT...**

One has a **piece of punctuation** in it which makes it **extremely obvious** as to what it means!

# YOU'RE

This piece of punctuation is **the apostrophe (')**!

**Can you remember what an apostrophe does?**



# YOU'RE

The **apostrophe** indicates either:

**1. Possession** e.g. Mr. Davis' pen.

**2. Omission** e.g. Don't (contracted 'do not' do that)

**What does the apostrophe in 'you're' indicate?**



# YOU'RE

The **apostrophe** indicates the **omission** of the 'a' in 'you are'!

e.g. **You're going there today!**

**(You are going there today!)**

## You're

*You're* is a contraction of *you are*. It has no other uses. This is a 100% rule. If you cannot expand it to *you are* in your sentence, then it is wrong.

Examples:

- The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat. ✓ (Lily Tomlin)  
(Expands to *you are* – correct)
- Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you're finished. ✓ (Leslie Nielsen)  
(Expands to *you are* – correct)
- Please ask Joan to post the parcel when you're in London. ✓  
(Expands to *you are* – correct)
- You said that you couldn't believe you're ears. ✗  
(Does not expand to *you are* – should be *your*)

## Your

The word *your* sits before another word (usually a noun or a pronoun) to show that it belongs to "you" (e.g., your car, your arm), is of "you" (e.g., your picture, your photograph) or is related to "you" (e.g., your uncle).

*Your* is a possessive adjective. (Other possessive adjectives are *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, and *their*.)

Examples:

- Our expert will answer your questions about pensions and savings. ✓  
(questions belonging to "you")
- Sarah doesn't look like your sister. ✓  
(related to "you")



## Vocabulary Challenge

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Your or You're?

Complete the following:

1. Please tell \_\_\_\_\_ friends that we will be leaving soon.
2. Did you tell \_\_\_\_\_ parents where \_\_\_\_\_ going to after dinner?
3. How long will it take for \_\_\_\_\_ clothes to dry?
4. When I said my speech, \_\_\_\_\_ friends were smiling at me.
5. Take the dog for a walk when \_\_\_\_\_ done doing the dishes.
6. When the clothes are dry, it's \_\_\_\_\_ turn to put them away.
7. Why is \_\_\_\_\_ face so red?
8. When \_\_\_\_\_ finished running the race, I'll have cold water waiting for you.
9. Did you brush \_\_\_\_\_ teeth today?
10. Did you find out where \_\_\_\_\_ brother went?
11. How come \_\_\_\_\_ going to bed so early?
12. Where did you put \_\_\_\_\_ back pack?
13. If \_\_\_\_\_ going to be running late, let me know.

You had me at your proper use of  
"You're".



# Key Words from Today's Session...

**Homophone:** Words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings.

**Apostrophe:** Punctuation used to indicate possession or contraction.

**Possession:** Something that belongs to someone.

**Omission:** Where letters have been **missed out**.

**Contraction:** Shortened words as a result of omission.