

# Homophones

Some words are pronounced like other words but are different in spelling and meaning, e.g. main, mane bear, bare.

Such words are called homophones.

- air** what we breathe
- heir** one entitled to a dead person's property
- allowed** permitted
- aloud** loud enough to be heard
- beach** the sea-shore
- beech** a tree
- boy** a male child
- buoy** a floating marker for ships
- brake** a device to check speed
- break** to cause something to come into pieces
- cereal** wheat, barley and oats are all cereals
- serial** a story or film appearing in parts
- check** to stop; a squared pattern
- cheque** an order to a bank to pay money
- coarse** rough
- course** a track; an onward movement
- currant** a dried grape
- current** a flow of water, air, etc.
- foul** filthy; wicked; vile
- fowl** a bird

**A** Choose the correct word from the pair above complete each sentence.

- 1 **cereal serial**  
Cornflakes are his favourite \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 **currant current**  
These \_\_\_\_\_ buns are delicious.
- 3 **foul fowl**  
Fullham were awarded a free-kick for a \_\_\_\_\_ on the goalkeeper.
- 4 **air heir**  
Prince Charles is \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne.
- 5 **break brake**  
New blocks had to be fitted to the front \_\_\_\_\_ of the bicycle.

**B** Write five pairs of words to complete these sentences.

- 1 Father paid by \_\_\_\_\_ for his new \_\_\_\_\_ suit.
- 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ who fell overboard swam to a nearby \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Talking \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ in the reading room of the library.
- 4 Racing was difficult because the grass on the \_\_\_\_\_ was long and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Not far from the sandy \_\_\_\_\_ grew a clump of \_\_\_\_\_ trees.



# Homophones

**herd** a number of animals together

**heard** past tense of hear

**key** locks a door, etc.

**quay** a landing-place for ships

**night** time between evening and morning

**knight** a titled gentleman

**muscle** part of the body

**mussel** a shellfish

**place** a particular part of space

**plalce** a flat-fish

**profit** gain; benefit

**prophet** one who foretells events

**sew** to work with needle and thread

**sow** to scatter seed

**stile** steps in a fence or wall

**style** fashion

**vale** a valley

**veil** thin material covering the face

**stationary** writing materials

**stationary** standing still

**A** Choose the correct word from the pair above to complete each sentence.

- 1 **vale veil**  
The bride wore a \_\_\_\_\_ of lace.
- 2 **stationary stationary**  
The fast sports car collided with a \_\_\_\_\_ saloon car.
- 3 **profit prophet**  
The \_\_\_\_\_ foretold the defeat of the Hebrews.
- 4 **sow sew**  
In spring farmers plough their fields and \_\_\_\_\_ the seed.
- 5 **muscle mussel**  
Having pulled a \_\_\_\_\_ in his thigh the centre-half had to leave the field.

**B** Complete each sentence by using a suitable pair of homophones from your list.

- 1 The thundering hoofs of the stampeding \_\_\_\_\_ of buffalo could be \_\_\_\_\_ from a long way off.
- 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ to the sailor's chest was found lying on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The black \_\_\_\_\_ rode out one \_\_\_\_\_ to attack the baron's castle.
- 4 The athlete vaulted over the \_\_\_\_\_ in fine \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The fishmonger put the huge \_\_\_\_\_ in a prominent \_\_\_\_\_ on the marble slab.

