

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**
Fulham 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. *Cheque check*
- 2 The boy who fell overboard swam to a nearby buoy.
- 3 Talking aloud is not _____ in the reading room of the library. *allowed*
- 4 Racing was difficult because the grass on the course was long and coarse.
- 5 Not far from the sandy _____ grew a clump of beach trees. *beach*



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

plaiice 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

stationery 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 **stationery** **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 herd of buffalo could be heard from a long way off.
- 2 The key to the sailor's chest was found lying on the quay.
- 3 The black knight rode out one night to attack the baron's castle.
- 4 The athlete vaulted over the stile in fine style.
- 5 The fishmonger put the huge plaiice in a prominent place on the marble slab.

