

## HOMOPHONES BY GRADE LEVEL RECOMMENDATION

### **Grade 1**

are – our\*  
be – bee  
then – than\*

### **Grade 2**

ad – add  
buy – by  
cent – sent  
for – four\*  
hole – whole  
hour – our  
its – it's\*  
off – of  
some – sum  
there – their\*  
there – they're –  
their\*  
to – two\*  
were – we're  
where – were  
whose – who's\*  
wood – would  
your – you're\*

### **Grade 3**

allowed – aloud  
bear – bare  
beat – beet  
blew – blue\*  
break – brake\*  
chews – choose  
creak – creek  
dear – deer  
die – dye  
fair – fare  
fir – fur  
flew – flu  
great – grate  
groan – grown  
hair – hare  
heal – heel  
hear – here  
I – eye  
lead – led\*  
loose – lose  
maid – made  
mail – male  
main – mane  
meat – meet  
new – knew\*  
no – know\*  
nose – knows  
not – knot  
oh – owe  
pail – pale  
pain – pane  
pair – pare – pear  
peace – piece\*  
peak – peek  
peal – peel  
plain – plane\*  
quite – quiet\*  
rain – rein – reign  
raise – rays  
read – red  
reads – reeds  
real – reel  
sail – sale  
sea – see  
seam – seem  
soar – sore  
steak – stake  
steal – steel  
tail – tale  
to – too – two\*  
toad – towed  
toes – tows  
waist – waste  
weak – week\*

### **Grade 4**

ate – eight  
berry – bury  
board – bored\*  
buy – by – bye  
course – coarse  
dew – do – due  
flour – flower  
form – from  
forth – fourth  
hall – haul  
hay – hey  
heard – herd\*  
higher – hire  
missed – mist  
night – knight  
none – nun  
one – won  
pause – paws  
rap – wrap  
right – write\*  
ring – wring  
road – rode\*  
sew – so – sow  
tacks – tax  
threw – through\*  
weather – whether\*  
which – witch

### **Grade 5**

addition – edition  
ant – aunt  
celery – salary  
cell – sell  
clothes – close\*  
desert – dessert  
guessed – guest  
horse – hoarse  
passed – past\*  
profit – prophet  
sense – since\*  
son – sun  
stairs – stares\*

### **Grade 6**

accept – except\*  
access – excess  
affect – effect\*  
capital – capitol  
ceiling – sealing  
cent – sent – scent  
cereal – serial  
conscience – conscious  
council – counsel  
patience – patients\*  
principal – principle\*  
scene – seen  
stationary – stationery\*  
wade – weighed  
wait – weight  
way – weigh

*Notice that a large number of sets are recommended for third grade. This may be a good year to do a special unit on homophones, with word play, illustrations, a bulletin board, etc.*

\*Recommended for special emphasis.

The *Spelling Plus* list is indicated if either or both words are on a list.

**Recommended grade levels** are suggestions *only*. Teachers decide when to introduce homophones.

**Definitions** are brief and include only the most common meanings and parts of speech, to help students distinguish the words from one another. For complete definitions, use a dictionary.

**Background information** from which teachers select what will help their students:

- Why the words may be especially confusing.
- Relative frequency, from *Frequency Analysis of English Usage: Lexicon and Grammar*.
- Meanings of word parts.
- Historical and etymological information.
- Mnemonics.

## ***accept – except*** *p. 41*

*Spelling Plus list 59.*

*Recommended for grade 6.*

**accept** *v.* to receive willingly  
**except** *prep.* other than, but

Both of these words come from the same Latin root. Because the first syllables are unaccented, the pronunciation is confusingly similar. Both words are used with about the same frequency.

The root **cept** means “take.” The prefix **ac-** (same as **ad-**) means “toward.” So **accept** has the meaning “take toward.”

The prefix **ex-** means “out.” Think of **exit**. So **except** has the meaning “take out.”

Associate **accept** with **yes** and **except** with **no**.

### *Answers*

1. *accept*
2. *except*
3. *accept*
4. *except*
5. *accept*
6. *except*
7. *except*
8. *accept*
9. *except*
10. *except*
11. *accept*
12. *accept*
13. *except*
14. *accept*
15. *except*
16. *except*
17. *accept*
18. *except*
19. *accept*
20. *except*

**Page number** on which the worksheet is located.

**Answers** to worksheet. As much as possible, I avoided the issue of capitalization. If capitalization will be necessary, remind students in advance.

*Note:* Although the purpose of these worksheets is to teach homophones, incidental learning in other areas may take place. Facts given in the sentences are accurate, and are from *The World Book Encyclopedia*, *Facts Plus: An Almanac of Essential Information*, and *The Guinness Book of World Records*. If students seem especially interested in a fact presented on one of these worksheets, encourage them to use reference books to find out more and share what they discover with the class.

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  14. *accept*
  15. *except*
  16. *except*
  17. *accept*
  18. *except*
  19. *accept*
  20. *except*

## ***access – excess*** *p. 42*

*Not on the Spelling Plus list.*

*Recommended for grade 6.*

**access** *n.* the right to enter or use  
**excess** *n. adj.* more than enough

Both of these words are used with about the same frequency in English. Although they have different pronunciations, the difference may be difficult to hear.

**Access** comes from the Latin **accessus** which meant “approach.”

**Excess** comes from the same Latin root as **exceed** which means “to pass the limits of.”

Associate **access** with **approach** and **excess** with **exceed**. Pronounce the words clearly while spelling.

- ### *Answers*
1. *access*
  2. *excess*
  3. *excess*
  4. *access*
  5. *excess*
  6. *access*
  7. *access*
  8. *excess*
  9. *excess*
  10. *excess*
  11. *access*
  12. *access*
  13. *excess*
  14. *excess*
  15. *access*
  16. *access*
  17. *access*
  18. *excess*
  19. *excess*
  20. *access*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ACCEPT — EXCEPT

1. The club will \_\_\_\_\_ all donations.
2. Everyone was invited to the party \_\_\_\_\_ Pam.
3. I will \_\_\_\_\_ your offer.
4. All of the girls \_\_\_\_\_ Christina may line up now.
5. Will you \_\_\_\_\_ this gift from me?
6. All of the houses \_\_\_\_\_ ours have gardens.
7. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ you has brown hair.
8. I will \_\_\_\_\_ the job offer.
9. Everyone can go \_\_\_\_\_ me. I have to work.
10. All of our guests \_\_\_\_\_ the little children are fishing.
11. He will surely \_\_\_\_\_ your invitation.
12. Sure, I'll \_\_\_\_\_ a ride to school with you.
13. Everyone can go \_\_\_\_\_ my little sister.
14. I will \_\_\_\_\_ your apology.
15. I like it \_\_\_\_\_ for the color.
16. I have to work every day \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday.
17. I am certainly not going to \_\_\_\_\_ your excuses.
18. He remembered everything \_\_\_\_\_ his tennis shoes.
19. The teacher won't \_\_\_\_\_ any late work.
20. I finished everything \_\_\_\_\_ my math.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ITS — IT'S

1. It looks like \_\_\_\_\_ raining again.
2. She was very pleased with \_\_\_\_\_ color.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ fur was brown and white.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful, sunny day!
5. After several months, \_\_\_\_\_ leg finally healed.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ not fair!
7. Can you tell me if \_\_\_\_\_ working?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ windows were broken.
9. I can't tell if \_\_\_\_\_ hot or cold.
10. I think \_\_\_\_\_ going to be an exciting day.
11. A dog sheds \_\_\_\_\_ coat at least once a year.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ even bigger than the last fish I caught!
13. When the book fell in the snow, \_\_\_\_\_ cover was ruined.
14. I'm afraid \_\_\_\_\_ going to be a long day.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ good to be home.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ fur was long and very soft.
17. I think \_\_\_\_\_ the best ice cream!
18. \_\_\_\_\_ collar is gold plated.
19. Mother says \_\_\_\_\_ too dark to play outside.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ name is Big Blue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **THERE — THEY'RE — THEIR**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ were five animals coming out of the forest.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ teeth were sharp and glittering.
3. Oh no, \_\_\_\_\_ coming this way!
4. But what if \_\_\_\_\_ noses are so good they can smell us?
5. I'm afraid \_\_\_\_\_ is a good chance of that.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ sniffing the air. Maybe they know we're here.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ must be something we can do.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ so scary looking!
9. I bet \_\_\_\_\_ claws are sharp!
10. \_\_\_\_\_ turning around and running back into the forest.
11. Something must be chasing them. Look, \_\_\_\_\_ it is!
12. Wow! A bear. He's right on \_\_\_\_\_ tracks.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ fast though. I bet they'll get away.
14. I'm glad they ran over \_\_\_\_\_ and not over here!
15. Can you hear \_\_\_\_\_ howls in the distance?
16. I wonder if \_\_\_\_\_ going to be all right.
17. I'm sure \_\_\_\_\_ running as fast as possible.
18. I think they'll run to \_\_\_\_\_ dens and hide.
19. Our car is over \_\_\_\_\_. Let's get out of here!
20. Oh no! I can't remember whether or not I left the keys in  
\_\_\_\_\_!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## TO — TOO — TWO

1. You can come along, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My sister turned \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday.
3. Let's go \_\_\_\_\_ the tennis game.
4. I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ go, but I couldn't.
5. The door was \_\_\_\_\_ short for adults.
6. I want \_\_\_\_\_ learn more about space.
7. I think there are \_\_\_\_\_ people here to see us.
8. Go \_\_\_\_\_ the corner and turn left.
9. Wait, I want to go, \_\_\_\_\_!
10. It's \_\_\_\_\_ cold to go outside.
11. Are you going \_\_\_\_\_ the store?
12. That hat is \_\_\_\_\_ big for you.
13. Your dog is barking \_\_\_\_\_ much. I can't sleep.
14. He lives \_\_\_\_\_ miles from here.
15. I ate \_\_\_\_\_ much last night.
16. I'm going \_\_\_\_\_ wash the car now.
17. Even if we leave now, we will be \_\_\_\_\_ late.
18. Shall I buy you a fishing pole, \_\_\_\_\_?
19. These \_\_\_\_\_ socks don't match!
20. We will need \_\_\_\_\_ get into teams of four.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR — YOU'RE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ mother is pretty, and she is a good cook!
2. Did you say \_\_\_\_\_ staying home today?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Henry Cook, aren't you?
4. Why aren't you in \_\_\_\_\_ room?
5. \_\_\_\_\_ birthday is April 3, isn't it?
6. Is that \_\_\_\_\_ boat?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ in the second grade.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ the winner!
9. \_\_\_\_\_ cat is in my garden again.
10. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ hat?
11. Is it true that \_\_\_\_\_ the fastest runner?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ going to be late if you don't hurry!
13. \_\_\_\_\_ bicycle is better than mine.
14. He's on his way to \_\_\_\_\_ house now.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ supposed to be working, not sleeping.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ dog is funny.
17. Is that \_\_\_\_\_ baby brother crying?
18. \_\_\_\_\_ going to have to do something soon!
19. Someone told me that \_\_\_\_\_ good at math.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ doing a great job!