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Dictionary of HOMOPHONES

Leslie Presson

A great quick reference source for high school and college students

- ESL students • teachers
- writers • copy editors
- word puzzle fans
- and anybody who needs to look up word meanings and spellings



I'm a little hoarse.

More than 600 homophone pairs listed alphabetically with short definitions and part-of-speech designations



BARRON'S

A Dictionary of HOMOPHONES

By
Leslie Presson

•
Illustrated by
John LaPick



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The English language can be tricky for educated natives and downright treacherous for those who are new to it. Some of the most frequently confused words are homophones—words that sound alike but are spelled differently for different meanings. The spelling errors that ensue can be amusing, even ridiculous. For example: spell checkers that are designed to recognize bona fide words by spelling, not meaning, will not find *sum miss steaks four ewe*.



This easy-to-use dictionary was compiled to be a helpful resource for students of American English, writers, copy editors, and lovers of wordplay. The sentences provided for each homophone set demonstrate the correct use of each word. The entries are all words that are spelled differently: *all ways/always*, not *any one/anyone*, as well as words that have at least one accepted pronunciation that matches another, like *fate/fete*, *want/wont*, *canapé/canopy*, and *bad/bade*.

The addition of suffixes to words contributes to the mix-up, particularly when the first syllable in both words is an unstressed vowel sound, as in *affects/effects* and *allusion/illusion*. Their pronunciation in connected speech sounds similar, and for that reason they are included.

The controversy surrounding the pronunciations of *marry/merry*, *fairy/ferry*, and *berry/bury* and the issue of words beginning with *w* and *wh* were resolved by Kenneth G. Wilson's authoritative *The Columbia Guide to Standard American English*. His description of the regional variations that constitute Standard English and accepted usage was the basis for selecting the homophones in this dictionary.

So, when you're puzzled about *witch* word is *which*, consult *A Dictionary of Homophones* for the answer.

H ow to Use This Dictionary

The homophone (*hom-o-fone*) sets are arranged in alphabetical order, as are the many cross-referenced words. Following each entry is an abbreviation telling its part of speech, which appears in italics.

(adj.)—adjective

(adv.)—adverb

(conj.)—conjunction

(contr.)—contraction

(interj.)—interjection

(n.)—noun

(prep.)—preposition

(pron.)—pronoun

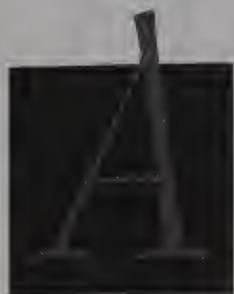
(v.)—verb

The brief definitions and the sentences are designed to help you quickly identify the most important differences between the words. For additional meanings, you should refer to a current general dictionary.

Please note that some of the illustrations show the funny mix-ups that can occur when the wrong spelling is used.

T

erms A-XYZ



Abel—(*n.*) a son of Adam and Eve

able—(*adj.*) competent; skilled

According to the Bible, *Abel* was a very *able* shepherd.

accede—(*v.*) to agree to; to assume an office or title

exceed—(*v.*) to go beyond the bounds; to surpass

She will *accede* to the throne.

Do not *exceed* the speed limit.

accept—(*v.*) to take; to receive with consent; to submit to; to agree to

except—(*v.*) to exclude; to take exception to; (*prep.*) but; (*conj.*) only

I *accept* your invitation, *except* I'll be a few minutes late.

acclamation—(*n.*) a loud applause

acclimation—(*n.*) the process of getting used to the environment

The president was greeted with *acclamation*.

The runners needed a few days of *acclimation* before the big race.

acts—(*n.*) deeds; parts of a play; a book in the Bible

ax, axe—(*n.*) a cutting tool

Splitting logs with an *ax* and then stacking them are vigorous *acts*.

ad—(n.) an advertisement

add—(v.) to combine; to increase; to provide

A big *ad* will *add* to your volume of business.

addition—(n.) the process of uniting; something added

edition—(n.) one of a series; the format of a work

The *addition* of pictures improved the new *edition* of the book.

adduce—(v.) to bring forward; to show evidence

educe—(v.) to draw out; to elicit; to develop

The prosecutor was able to *educe* a strong case that he could *adduce* in court.

adherence—(n.) a steady devotion; an allegiance or attachment

adherents—(n.) persons who follow a leader, cause, or idea

The cult had many *adherents* whose *adherence* was unquestioning.

ado—(n.) a fuss; trouble

adieu—(n.) a good-bye; a farewell

There will be a big *ado* when Michael bids his last *adieu*.

aerial—(adj.) of, in, or produced by the air; (n.) an antenna

Ariel—(n.) a sprite in a play by Shakespeare

Ariel made an *aerial* entrance in the first act.

aerie—(n.) the lofty nest of an eagle or a hawk

erie—(adj.) uncanny; weird

Looking down from an eagle's *aerie* would give one an *erie* feeling.

affect-effect

affect—(v.) to change; to alter; to influence; (n.) a state of mind

effect—(v.) to bring about; to accomplish; (n.) the result;
a consequence

The storm's devastating *effect* will *affect* the entire region.

affected—(v.) changed; moved; concerned; stirred; upset; pretended;
(adj.) insincere; phony

effected—(v.) brought about; accomplished

Her *affected* manner offends me.

They *effected* great changes in the city parks.

affects—(v.) influences; concerns; wears self-consciously; pretends

effects—(n.) possessions; the results

The will, listing all of his *effects*, *affects* every one of his heirs.

aid—(n.) assistance; help

aide—(n.) a helper

The class made lemonade with the *aid* of the teacher's *aide*.

ail—(v.) to be sick; to have trouble or pain

ale—(n.) a drink

You may find you *ail* in the morning if you drink too much *ale* tonight.

air—(n.) a breeze; gases surrounding the earth; (v.) to make public

e'er—(adj.) ever

ere—(conj.) before; (prep.) rather than

heir—(n.) one who inherits

The king's *heir* was quick to *air* his excuses *ere* his subjects could denounce him.

He spoke to them *whene'er* they would listen.



Your seat is on the center *aisle*.

aisle—(n.) a passageway between rows of shelves or seats

I'll—(contr.) I will or I shall

isle—(n.) an island

I'll sit in the *aisle* seat before we land on that *isle*.

all—(n.) everyone; the whole

awl—(n.) a small pointed tool

All of the holes in the leather were made with an *awl*.

allowed—(v.) permitted; provided

aloud—(adj.) out loud; loudly

You'll be *allowed* to read your story *aloud* in class today.

all ready—(adj.) completely prepared

already—(adv.) previously; even now

She had *already* said good-bye.

Her friends were *all ready* to leave.

alluded—(v.) referred to indirectly; mentioned

eluded—(v.) escaped from; evaded

They *alluded* to having great influence but *eluded* making a real offer to help.



Finally I was **allowed** to read **aloud**.

allusion—(*n.*) an indirect or casual reference

illusion—(*n.*) a false perception or appearance

The magazine article made an *allusion* to how her use of cosmetics created the *illusion* of youth.

allusive—(*adj.*) making indirect references

elusive—(*adj.*) evasive; hard to grasp; baffling

illusive—(*adj.*) not real; resulting from illusion

Her conversation was *allusive* and full of casual innuendo.

The police searched for the *elusive* suspect.

Don't be deluded by *illusive* advertising claims.

altar—(*n.*) a platform or table used for worship

alter—(*v.*) to change

Candles and flowers will *alter* the appearance of the *altar*.

altogether—(*adv.*) entirely; completely; wholly

all together—(*adv.*) in a group

When we're *all together*, our behavior changes *altogether*.

all ways—(*adv.*) by every method or direction

always—(*adv.*) every time; forever

The dictionary is complete in *all ways* and will *always* be helpful.

amend—(*v.*) to change for the better

emend—(*v.*) to correct errors in written text

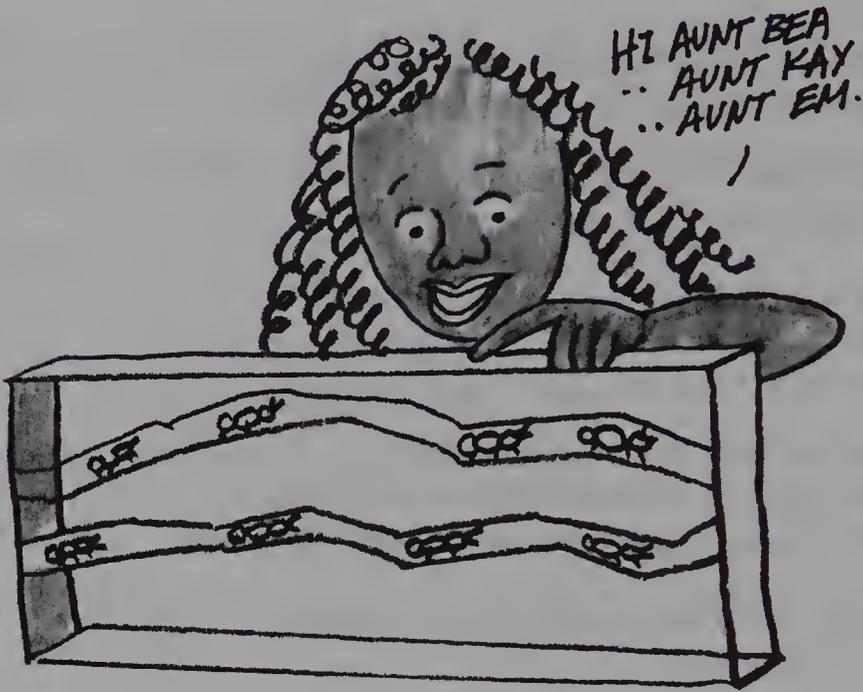
I move to *amend* the motion on the floor.

A copy editor will *emend* your manuscript.

analyst—(*n.*) one who analyzes

annalist—(*n.*) one who chronicles yearly events

The nightly news *analyst* commented on the *annalist's* report of this year's events.



I love to visit my aunts.

ant—(n.) a small insect

aunt—(n.) a female relative

At the picnic, my *aunt* discovered an *ant* on her sandwich.

apatite—(n.) a common form of calcium found in rocks, teeth, and bones

appetite—(n.) a desire for food or drink, or to satisfy a craving

Apatite occurs in six-sided prisms.

She had a ravenous *appetite*.

appose—(v.) to place next to; to juxtapose

oppose—(v.) to act against

I will *oppose* the plan to *appose* the new school and the jail.

apprise—(v.) to notify; to inform

apprize—(v.) to appreciate; to value

The judge will *apprise* the court of her decision.

We deeply *apprize* your generous contribution.

arc—(n.) a curved line; an arch

ark—(v.) a vessel; a chest

Standing on the deck of the *ark*, Noah saw the rainbow's *arc*.

arrant—(adj.) incorrigible; notorious

errant—(adj.) wandering off; lost; mistaken

An *arrant* drifter kidnapped the *errant* child.

ascent—(n.) a rising or climb up; an upward slope

assent—(v.) to agree; to concur; (n.) an agreement

They reached an *assent* about testing the balloon's *ascent*.

assistance—(n.) help; aid

assistants—(n.) the helpers; the aides

The patient walked with the *assistance* of two *assistants*.

ate—(v.) did eat; consumed

eight—(n.) a number following seven

Eight piglets *ate* at the trough.

attendance—(n.) the number present; attention

attendants—(n.) the people who serve or are present

The teacher took *attendance*.

The bride and groom had four *attendants*.

auger—(*n.*) a tool for boring holes; a bit and brace

augur—(*n.*) a soothsayer; a prophet; (*v.*) to predict; to serve as an omen

The *augur* told my fortune using wood shavings from an *auger*.

aural—(*adj.*) sense of hearing; of the ear

oral—(*adj.*) spoken; of the mouth

Oral reading of fine poetry can be an *aural* delight.

aureole—(*n.*) a halo; the sun's corona

oriole—(*n.*) an orange and black bird

During an eclipse, we see the sun's *aureole*.

An *oriole* builds a hanging nest.

away—(*adv.*) from this place to another place; far apart

aweigh—(*adj.*) an anchor just free of the bottom

You are free to sail *away* if the anchor is *aweigh*.

axel—(*n.*) a figure-skating jump made while turning

axle—(*n.*) the pin, bar, or shaft on which wheels turn

He performed a double *axel*.

The truck had a broken *axle*.

axes—(*n.*) large, chopping tools

axis—(*n.*) a central line about which an object rotates or is arranged

The hardware store sharpens *axes*.

The earth revolves around its *axis*.

aye (ay)—(*adv.*) yes; always

eye—(*n.*) the organ of sight; the power of seeing; an attentive look; an opening or section; (*v.*) to view; to watch carefully

I—(*pron.*) meaning yourself

Aye, I have an eye for pretty things!



baa—(*n.*) the bleat of a sheep; (*v.*) to utter a sheep's sound

bah—(*interj.*) expression of annoyance or contempt

A sheep's *baa* is plaintive.

"*Bah* humbug," replied Scrooge.

bad—(*adj.*) not good; inadequate; defective; harmful; diseased; severe

bade—(*v.*) did bid

We *bade* good-bye to *bad* winters, and moved to Hawaii.

bail—(*n.*) a payment or security to get out of jail until trial;

(*v.*) to remove water; to jump out

bale—(*n.*) a large bundle; (*v.*) to make into bales

The prisoner made *bail* with a *bale* of ten-dollar bills.

baited—(*v.*) tempted; harassed; fitted with a lure

bated—(*v.*) held in, reduced

With *bated* breath, we tried to remove the *baited* trap.

bald—(*adj.*) hairless; plain or blunt

balled—(*v.*) made into a ball

bawled—(*v.*) cried aloud; scolded

When he saw he was *bald*, he *bawled* out his barber.

She *balled* the yarn for her kitten's amusement.

ball-bawl

ball—(n.) any round body; a formal dance; (v.) to make into a ball

bawl—(v.) to cry aloud; to scold

The baby began to *bawl* when the *ball* rolled out of his reach.

balm—(n.) a soothing ointment

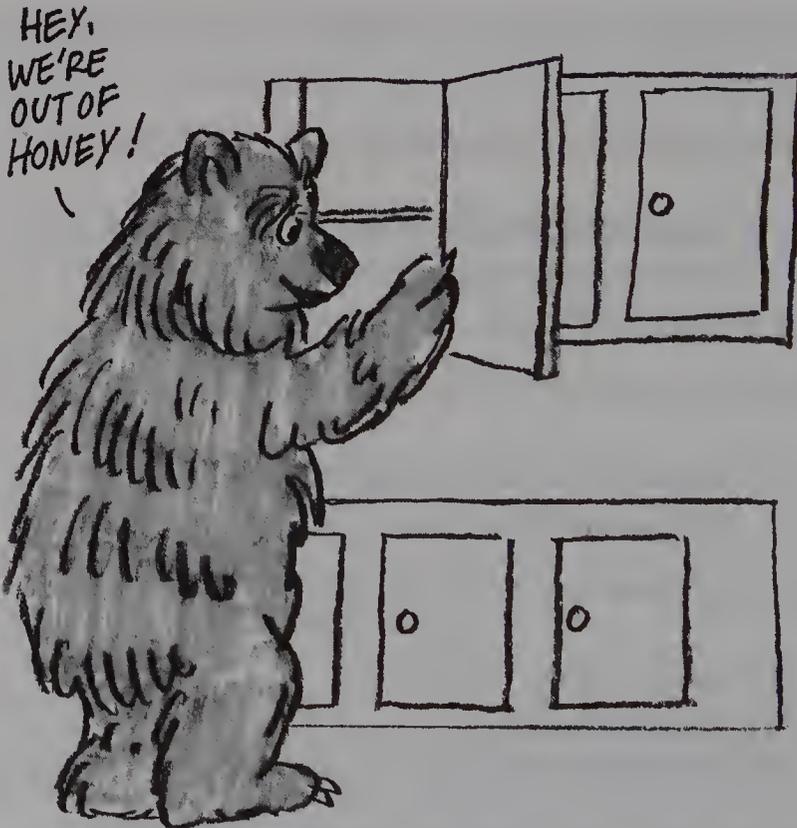
bomb—(n.) an explosive; (v.) to hurl or drop

No *balm* can soothe the devastation of a *bomb*.

band—(n.) a group; a strip or ring of metal, cloth, wood or rubber;
(v.) to join together

banned—(adj.) forbidden; prohibited

A *band* of gypsies was *banned* from the park.



The bear's cupboard was bare.

bard—(n.) a poet, singer, or storyteller

barred—(adj.) striped; fitted with bars; (v.) excluded; prevented

Illness *barred* the *bard* from performing last night.

bare—(adj.) naked; empty; simple; just sufficient

bear—(n.) an animal; (v.) to carry; to give birth; to endure; to suffer

She can't *bear* seeing *bare* bodies at the beach.

baron—(n.) a nobleman or magnate

barren—(adj.) without plants; sterile; boring

After the hurricane, the *baron's* estate was totally *barren* of trees.

base—(n.) a starting point; the foundation; the principal part; the bottom layer; a point on a baseball field; (adj.) lowly; cowardly; of little value

bass—(n.) a singer or musical instrument; (adj.) deep, low

The musician put his *bass* at the *base* of the stage.

based—(v.) founded on; headquartered; located at; assigned to

baste—(v.) to moisten while cooking; to join with loose stitches

Based on this recipe, you'll need to *baste* the roast four times.

bases—(n.) military installations; bottom layers; points on a playing field

basis—(n.) the main element; a basic fact

The *basis* of the error is he failed to touch all the *bases*.

bask—(v.) to lie in a warm place; to revel

Basque—(n.) a person living in a region in northern Spain;
their language

basque—(n.) a close-fitting bodice that covers the hips

A *Basque* from the mountains comes to *bask* on the beach.
The *basque* she wore was laced up the front.

bazaar—(n.) a marketplace; a benefit sale

bizarre—(adj.) strange, odd; fantastic

A *bizarre* accident occurred at our annual church *bazaar*.

be—(v.) to happen; to live; to continue; to exist; to become

bee—(n.) the insect that makes honey

It's rewarding to *be* a *beekeeper*.

beach—(n.) a sandy shore; (v.) to ground a boat on land

beech—(n.) a hardwood tree

Beech trees lined the road to the *beach*.

beat—(v.) to whip; to defeat; to pound or punish; to move up
and down; (n.) a musical rhythm

beet—(n.) a dark red vegetable

You can't *beat* pickled *beets*.

beau—(n.) a boyfriend, sweetheart

bow—(n.) a knot; a device with which to shoot arrows or play
an instrument; (v.) to bend

Her *beau* wore a colorful *bow* tie.

been—(v.) the past participle of *be*

bin—(n.) a storage box

I've *been* to the bagel *bin* too many times today.

beer—(n.) an alcoholic drink

bier—(n.) a platform for a coffin

After building the *bier*, the workers each had a *beer*.

bell—(n.) something that rings

belle—(n.) a popular female

The *bell* announced the arrival of the village *belle*.

berry—(n.) a small fruit

bury—(v.) to cover; to put out of sight

Don't *bury* ripe *berries* in whipped cream.

berth—(n.) a bunk; a ship's mooring; an assigned place; a safe distance

birth—(v.) being born; to create; to bring forth; (n.) the origin

Our cat gave *birth* to kittens in the upper *berth* of our cabin.

better—(adv.) more than good; (adj.) larger; greater; superior;
(v.) to improve

bettor—(n.) one who wagers

It would be *better* if he wasn't such a frequent *bettor*.

bib—(n.) a cloth shield worn around the neck

Bibb—(n.) a variety of lettuce with small heads

The toddler wore a *bib* to eat chicken soup and a *Bibb* lettuce salad.

bight—(n.) a loop in a rope; the curve of the shore; a bay or gulf

bite—(v.) to grip or cut with teeth; to annoy; (n.) a sting

byte—(n.) a group of consecutive computer bits forming a unit

We drifted across the *bight* in our boat.

A mosquito *bite* can get infected if you scratch it.

There are eight bits in a *byte* of storage on a computer.

billed—(v.) charged; gave a statement

build—(v.) to erect; to establish; to create; to develop

He *billed* his clients for materials before starting to *build* the house.

blew—(v.) did blow, spouted

blue—(n.) the color; (adj.) gloomy

The wind *blew* her new, *blue* hat into the street.

bloc—(n.) a political group; people united for a cause

block—(n.) a city square; a solid piece; (v.) to obstruct

Soldiers of the Soviet *bloc* paraded down the *block*.

boar—(n.) a wild hog

Boer—(n.) a Dutch settler in South Africa

bore—(v.) to drill a hole; carried; (n.) a dull person

The *Boers* *bore* rifles when they hunted for *boar*.

board—(n.) a flat piece of wood; a governing group; the meals provided with lodging; (v.) to get onto a ship, train, or plane

bored—(v.) drilled; wearied; uninterested

A *bored* member of a committee fell asleep at the *board* meeting.

boarder—(n.) a lodger; one who boards

border—(n.) an edge; a dividing line; a narrow strip

Our *boarder's* family lives across the *border* in Canada.

bold—(adj.) fearless, daring; steep; clear; abrupt

bowled—(v.) rolled a bowling ball; moved swiftly; knocked over

The *bold*, young contestant *bowled* a perfect game.

bolder—(adj.) more bold

boulder—(n.) a large rock

The *bolder* climbers scaled the *boulder* very quickly.

bomb—(n.) an explosive device

bombe—(n.) a molded, frozen dessert

The *bomb* was hidden in a chocolate *bombe*.

Bombay—(n.) a seaport in West India

bombé—(adj.) curving outward; rounded furniture

My *bombé* desk was made in *Bombay*.

bootie (bootie)—(n.) a soft, knitted shoe

booty—(n.) the loot; the spoils of war

The baby kicked off a *bootie*.

The pirates buried their *booty*.

born—(v.) brought into life; created

borne—(v.) carried; endured; suffered

Soon after Indian babies were *born*, they were *borne* on their mothers' backs.

borough—(n.) a section of New York City; a town

burro—(n.) a small donkey

burrow—(n.) an animal's home; (v.) to dig

The prairie dog dove into his *burrow*.

You're not likely to see a *burro* in the *borough* of Manhattan.

bough—(n.) main branch of a tree

bow—(v.) to bend in respect; to curve downward;

(n.) the front part of a ship

The *bow* of his boat was tied to the *bough* of a tree on the shore.

braid—(n.) three or more strands interwoven; a trimming;
(v.) to interweave

brayed—(v.) made the loud cry of a donkey

The donkey *brayed* as I started to *braid* his mane.



He *broached* the subject of the *brooch*.

brake—(n.) a device for slowing down; (v.) to stop

break—(v.) to crack; to burst; to disrupt; (n.) a happy change

You'll *break* the law if you don't *brake* at stop signs.

breach—(n.) a break; a gap; a violation of law or trust;

(v.) to make a break; to fail to comply

breech—(n.) the back part of a gun; the buttocks

After closing the *breech* of his gun, he aimed it through a *breach* in the wall.

bread—(n.) a baked food; (v.) to coat with bread crumbs

bred—(v.) mated; raised, trained; brought up

A well-*bred* child will ask, "Please pass the *bread*."

brewed—(v.) steeped; fermented

brood—(n.) a flock; offspring; (v.) to dwell on sad feelings

Their *brood* of noisy children *brewed* a big pot of tea.

brews—(v.) steeps; ferments; contrives to bring about

bruise—(n.) surface injury; (v.) to hurt; to be slightly injured;
to crush

My uncle *brews* beer at the brewery.

He suffered a slight *bruise* on his knee.

bridal—(adj.) of a bride or wedding

bridle—(n.) head harness for a horse; (v.) to control or
restrain

The *bridal* party had to *bridle* their mischievous ways during the wedding.

broach—(v.) to risk capsizing; to start a discussion

brooch—(n.) a large pin with a clasp

The detective tried to *broach* the subject of the missing *brooch*.

brows—(n.) eyebrows; foreheads; the edges of a cliff

browse—(v.) to nibble; to examine casually

Above his eyes were dark *brows*.

It's fun to *browse* in a bookstore.

brut—(adj.) very dry, referring to wine or champagne

brute—(n.) a beast; a crude person; (adj.) not human; savage;
cruel

The *brute* drank bottle after bottle of *brut* champagne.

burger—(n.) a sandwich or patty made of ground meat or fowl

burgher—(n.) a citizen of a town

The *burgher* drank a stein of beer with his *burger*.

bussed—(v.) went by bus; kissed

bust—(n.) the chest or breast; a statue

We *bussed* to Rome to see the famous *bust* of Caesar.

but—(conj.) yet; except; still; nevertheless; (adv.) only; just

butt—(v.) to ram with the head; to join end to end;

(n.) the thick end; the object of jokes

He was the *butt* of their jokes, *but* he knew how to even the score.

buy—(v.) to purchase; to believe; (n.) a bargain

by—(prep.) near; at; during; not later than; credited to

bye—(interj.) good-bye

Bye. I'm going to drive *by* a farm stand and *buy* some fresh corn.



cache—(n.) a hiding place; hidden supplies

cash—(n.) money

In the hikers' *cache* were tins of canned food, not *cash*.

caddie—(n.) a golfer's attendant; (v.) to work as a golfer's assistant

caddy—(n.) a small container for tea

The golfer tipped his *caddie* well.

A silver tea *caddy* sat on the tray.

Cain—(n.) a son of Adam and Eve

cane—(n.) a walking stick; a woody stem; sugar cane;
(v.) to weave strips of split bamboo

Cain slew his brother, Abel.

He walked with a stout *cane*.

calendar—(n.) a register for the days, weeks, months, and year

calender—(n.) a machine with rollers that smooths and glazes
cloth or paper

The paper for our *calendar* was highly glazed in a *calender* at the mill.

callous—(*adj.*) unfeeling, hard-hearted

callus—(*n.*) a thick, hard place on the skin

The ballet master was *callous* about the *callus* on the dancer's toe.

canapé—(*n.*) an appetizer; an hors d'oeuvre; a small portion of food

canopy—(*n.*) a covering for shelter or protection

She was served a *canapé*.

The ceremony was held under a *canopy*.

canon—(*n.*) church law; a clerical member of a cathedral; a body of principles or standards; a comprehensive list of authentic works

cannon—(*n.*) a large piece of artillery

Priests are familiar with the rulings of *canon* law.

The *cannon* fired a loud salute.

canter—(*n.*) a smooth, easy gallop; (*v.*) to ride at a canter

cantor—(*n.*) a singer in a synagogue

The *cantor* sang as he rode and urged his horse into a *canter*.

canvas—(*n.*) a firmly woven cloth

canvass—(*n.*) a survey; (*v.*) to solicit opinions

If you *canvass* experienced campers, you'll learn about *canvas* tents.

capital—(*n.*) an uppercase letter; the top of a column; the seat of government; invested money

capitol—(*n.*) the building in which government meets

The lights from the *Capitol* dome shone down on the streets of the *capital*.

captain—(n.) a military officer; a leader or chief

captan—(n.) a fungicide used on edible plants and flowers

The *captain* turned off the seat-belt sign.

Use *captan* in your garden.

carat—(n.) a gem's weight

karat—(n.) the purity of gold

caret—(n.) a mark used in printing and writing

carrot—(n.) an orange root vegetable

This is a 1-*carat* diamond in 16-*karat* gold.

A *caret* shows where to insert a missing word.

My rabbit likes *carrots* more than lettuce.

carol—(n.) a joyous song; (v.) to sing joyfully, especially at Christmas

carrel—(n.) a small alcove for study

From his *carrel*, he could hear the blackbirds sing a *carol* to Spring.



Her friends were impressed by her 2-*carat* ring.

cast—(n.) a rigid dressing for a broken bone; actors in a play; an appearance or style; (v.) to mold; to vote; to throw; to assign a role

caste—(n.) social rank; a system based on social class

He wore a *cast* on his broken arm.

She wore a *caste* mark on her forehead.

caster—(n.) one who throws

caster (castor)—(n.) a small wheel on a swivel

castor—(n.) a beaver; a medicinal oil

With a light rod, he's a good *caster*.

The chair has a broken *caster*.

Castor oil is unpleasant to take.

caws—(n.) the sounds of a crow

cause—(v.) to bring about; (n.) a reason; grounds; a principle, ideal, goal

The crows' raucous *caws* can *cause* an owl to take flight.

cedar—(n.) a kind of tree

seeder—(n.) a device for sowing or removing seeds

With a *seeder*, he planted a long row of *cedar* trees.

cede—(v.) to grant or yield; to formally surrender

seed—(n.) a part of a plant; the sperm of an animal; (v.) to sow

If we *cede* our land to the state, we'll have no fields left to *seed*.

ceiling—(n.) the top part of a room; the upper limit

sealing—(v.) shutting tight; hunting seals; (n.) the closing

After *sealing* the cracks, he painted the *ceiling*.

cell—(*n.*) a small prison, room; a small part of a living thing;
a small unit

sell—(*v.*) to exchange for money

From his prison *cell*, he tried to *sell* his story to a publisher.

cellar—(*n.*) a basement; the space below ground level

seller—(*n.*) one who sells things

The *seller* advertised a fine, old house with a wine *cellar*.

censer—(*n.*) a container for incense

ensor—(*n.*) a critic who prohibits; (*v.*) to remove from
circulation

sensor—(*n.*) a device to detect and measure

Before praying, he lit the *censer*.

The *ensor* thought that the book was grossly indecent.

A *sensor* turned on the lights at dusk.

cent—(*n.*) a penny coin

scent—(*n.*) a smell; (*v.*) to perfume

sent—(*v.*) transmitted; caused to go; drove

That gift of *scented* soap I *sent* cost more than 80 *cents*.

cereal—(*n.*) a grain used for food

serial—(*adj.*) in a series; continuing regularly

After eating their *cereal*, they watched a morning *serial* on TV.

Ceres—(*n.*) an ancient Roman goddess; a large, bright asteroid

series—(*n.*) a sequence; a number of similar things

Ceres was the first of a *series* of asteroids to be discovered.

cession—(n.) a giving up, yielding

session—(n.) a meeting

A treaty of territorial *cession* was announced in a *session* of the United Nations.

chance—(n.) luck; an opportunity; a gamble; an accident

chants—(v.) sings; (n.) simple tunes with words

While on vacation, I had a *chance* to hear authentic Navajo *chants*.

chased—(v.) pursued, followed; hunted

chaste—(adj.) pure, modest, simple

Bacchus *chased* after *chaste*, young maidens.

chauffeur—(n.) one who drives another's car

shofar—(n.) a ram's horn used as a musical instrument

A *chauffeur* delivered the *shofar* to the temple.

cheap—(adj.) inexpensive; contemptible

cheep—(n.) a young bird's call

The hungry *cheep* of baby birds arose from the *cheap* birdhouse.

chews—(v.) bites and grinds with the teeth

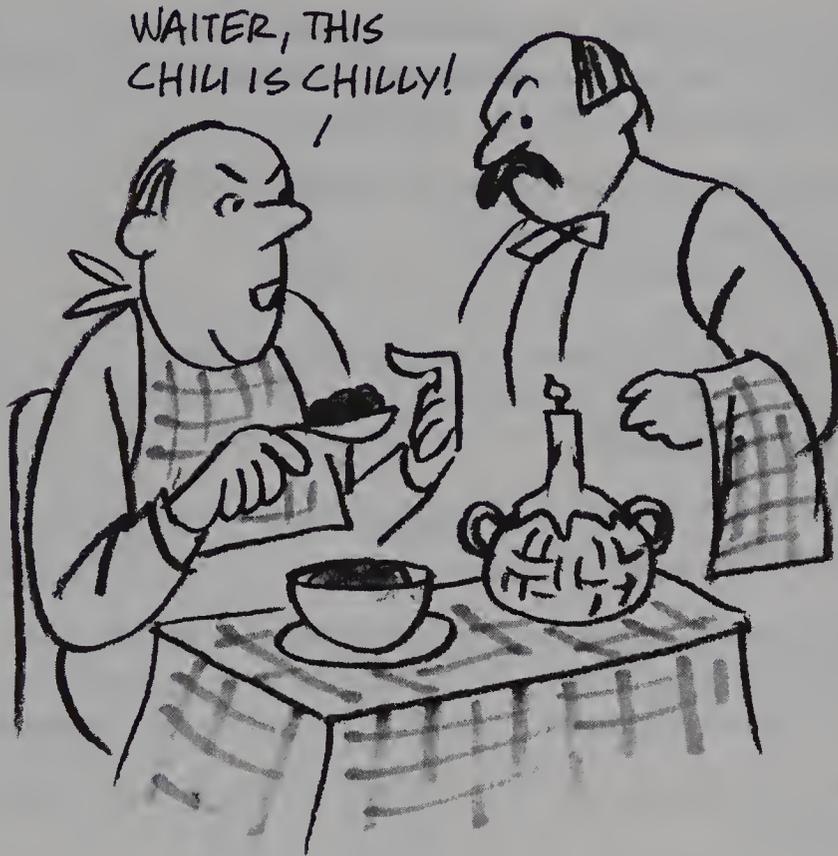
choose—(v.) to select; to decide; to prefer

With my luck, I'll *choose* a pet that *chews* holes in my socks.

chic—(adj.) fashionably elegant

skeik (sheikh)—(n.) an Arab chief

The Arab *sheik* arrived with a *chic* companion.



- Chile**—(n.) a South American country
chili (chile)—(n.) a hot pepper or stew
chilly—(adj.) moderately cold; unfriendly

I sampled *chili* peppers on a *chilly* evening in *Chile*.

- choir**—(n.) a group of singers; a part of a church
quire—(n.) 24 sheets of paper

The music for the *choir* was printed on a *quire* of heavy paper.

- choral**—(adj.) sung by a chorus; for a choir
coral—(n.) hard skeletons of marine growth; a color

The book of *choral* music had a cover of *coral*-colored fabric.

chord—(n.) musical notes played together

cord—(n.) a thick string; a measure of logs; a rib in fabric

cored—(v.) removed from the center

She played a sustained *chord* on the piano.

Tie the parcel with strong *cord*.

Baked apples should be *cored*, not peeled.

chute—(n.) a trough down which to slide or drop

shoot—(v.) to discharge; to wound; to move swiftly;
to photograph

Children love to *shoot* down a long, narrow *chute* at the playground.

cite—(v.) to summon to a court; to quote; to refer to

sight—(n.) a view; vision; (v.) to see; to look carefully

site—(n.) the location, the place; (v.) to place at the scene

May I *cite* your account of the tragic *sight* at the *site* of the accident?

clack—(n.) a quick, sharp sound

claque—(n.) a group hired to applaud a performance

As the singer's *claque* entered the hall, you could hear the *clack* of their heels on the marble floor.

clammer—(n.) one who digs for clams

clamor—(n.) an uproar; (v.) to raise an outcry

A *clammer* dug five bushels of clams.

We can't be heard over the *clamor*.

clause—(n.) a group of words that contains a noun and a verb; a part of a document

claws—(n.) sharp nails or pincers; (v.) pulls; digs; scratches; tears

One *clause* in this contract *claws* at my rights to receive royalties.

clew—(n.) a corner on a sail; lines on a boat

clue—(n.) the information leading to a solution of a mystery;
(v.) to provide information

The novice sailor hadn't a *clue* about where to find the *clew* of the sail.

climb—(v.) to mount; to rise; (n.) an upward movement

clime—(n.) the climate; a region

In any *clime*, it's important to *climb* with adequate safeguards.

close—(v.) to shut, stop, or block

clothes—(n.) garments; (v.) covers with clothing

Her closet contained so many *clothes*, she couldn't *close* the door.



He questioned the **clause** in his contract.

coarse—(*adj.*) rough; common

course—(*n.*) a direction or route to be taken; the path or track; a program of instruction; a prescribed treatment; a part of a meal; (*v.*) to run through or over swiftly

They first filled the holes in the race *course* with *coarse* gravel.

coarser—(*adj.*) more coarse; rougher

courser—(*n.*) a swift horse; one who chases

As the jockey's lashing grew *coarser*, his *courser* ran faster and faster.

coat—(*n.*) an outer garment; a layer; (*v.*) to apply an outer layer

cote—(*n.*) a shelter for pigeons or doves

He pulled on his *coat* and went out to the *dovecote*.

coffers—(*n.*) a treasury; the funds of an organization

coughers—(*n.*) those who cough

He announced that the club's *coffers* were empty.

Loud *coughers* should not go to a concert.

collared—(*v.*) seized by the collar

collard—(*n.*) a kind of leafy green vegetable

The officer *collared* the juvenile offender.

We planted two rows of *collard* seeds.

colonel—(*n.*) a military officer

kernel—(*n.*) the seed of corn; the inner part of a nut; the most important part

A *colonel* was in command of the troops.

Not a *kernel* remained unpoped.

complaisant—(*adj.*) obliging, willing to please
complacent—(*adj.*) contented; smug, self-satisfied

The *complaisant* waiter hurried to fill our order.
 A first-time champion should never be *complacent* about success.

complement—(*v.*) to make complete; (*n.*) that which perfects
 or completes

compliment—(*v.*) to praise; (*n.*) a courteous act; flattery

A bowl of flowers will *complement* a lovely table setting.
 The teacher paid his students a *compliment* for their good
 behavior.

complementary—(*adj.*) completes; supplies what is missing

complimentary—(*adj.*) praises; expresses courtesy or
 admiration; free of charge

A piece of fruit would be *complementary* after a rich, heavy meal.
 Your second cup of coffee is *complimentary*.

consonance—(*n.*) an accord or agreement; a harmony of sounds

consonants—(*n.*) the letters of the alphabet that are not vowels

Teachers are in *consonance* that vowels be taught after *consonants*.

continence—(*n.*) a self-restraint; a temperance; the control of
 bodily discharge

continents—(*n.*) the main landmasses on the earth

The counselor spoke about *continence*.
 There are seven *continents*.

coo—(*n.*) the murmur of a dove; (*v.*) to make the sound

coup—(*n.*) a successful, unexpected act or move; a daring
 deed; a blow

With a *coo* as the signal, the boys launched their *coup* against
 the girls.

coolie—(n.) a laborer hired for work at subsistence wages
coulee—(n.) a deep ravine formed by running water

The *coolie* hauled baskets of rocks from the *coulee*.

coop—(n.) a cage or shelter for poultry or small animals;
(v.) to confine

coupe—(n.) a closed, two-door car; a frozen dessert with toppings

She drove to the *coop* in her *coupe* to collect the day's eggs.

cops—(n.) police officers; cones of yarn on spindles

copse—(n.) a thicket of small trees

Hidden in a *copse* on the hill, the *cops* waited for the suspect.

core—(n.) the center; the inner or most important part;
(v.) to remove the center part

corps—(n.) a group of people working together

At the *core* of the *Peace Corps* is a desire to improve life for others.

council—(n.) a group of people called together for discussion

counsel—(n.) advice; a lawyer; (v.) to advise

The homeowners' *council* agreed to seek *counsel*.

cousin—(n.) a son or daughter of an uncle or aunt

cozen—(v.) to cheat, deceive, or trick

My *cousin* liked to *cozen* others, and lost every friend she had.

coward—(n.) one who lacks courage, is shamefully afraid

cowered—(v.) cringed from cold or fear; crouched

In a panic, the *coward* *cowered* behind the door.

craft—(n.) an art or a skilled trade; a paper of varied color, texture, and weight; a plane, ship, or other vessel;
(v.) to make with skill and care

kraft—(n.) a heavy brown paper used for bags and wrapping

He displayed samples of his *craft* on a table covered with *kraft* paper.

crape—(n.) a black fabric used for funerals and mourning

crepe—(n.) a crinkly cloth or paper; a type of rubber sole;
a French pancake

The coffin was draped in *crape*.

Her gown was made of lavender *crepe*.

creak—(v.) to make a squeaking sound

creek—(n.) a small stream

The oars *creak* as we row down the *creek*.

crewel—(n.) a soft yarn used in embroidery; a type of embroidery

cruel—(adj.) mean; causing pain and suffering

The *cruel* judge said her *crewelwork* was unworthy of being displayed.

crews—(n.) groups of people working together

cruise—(v.) to voyage; to move at an even speed;
(n.) a vacation on a ship

The *crews* on *cruise* ships work very long hours.

cue—(n.) a signal or hint; a long rod; (v.) to prompt

queue—(n.) a pigtail; a list of computer data; (v.) to wait in a long line

As if on *cue*, the ticket holders formed a *queue* outside the gate.

currant—(n.) a small raisin or sour berry

current—(n.) the flow of water, air, or electricity;
(adj.) in the present

Current law prohibits shipping *currant* bushes into some states.

curser—(n.) one who swears or wishes misfortune on another

cursor—(n.) a visual position indicator in text on a computer screen

The mean *curser* at the keyboard used the mouse to move the *cursor*.

cygnet—(n.) a young swan

signet—(n.) an official seal

The swans guarded their *cygnet*.

I wear my father's *signet* ring.

cymbal—(n.) a musical instrument

symbol—(n.) a sign or token; a mark or letter

A crash of the *cymbal* was a *symbol* of the concert's finale.

cypress—(n.) an evergreen tree

Cyprus—(n.) an island in Europe near Greece

Cyprus has many very old *cypress* trees.



dal (dhal)—(*n.*) a thick Indian dish made of dried peas or lentils and spices

doll—(*n.*) a small figure representing a child or other human figure

While she stirred the *dhal*, her daughter played with a Barbie *doll*.

dam—(*n.*) a barrier to hold back water; an animal mother;
(*v.*) to create a water barrier

damn—(*v.*) to condemn; to censure; to doom; to curse;
(*adj.*) cursed; (*interj.*) to express anger or disgust

The *dam* created a large lake.

I *damn* the forces that conspire to cause war!

Dane—(*n.*) a native of Denmark; a breed of dog

deign—(*v.*) to condescend; to give or grant

Hamlet, that famous *Dane*, would not *deign* to accept his mother's marriage.

days—(*n.*) the plural of day

daze—(*v.*) to stun; (*n.*) a state of shock

He passed through the *days* after her death in a *daze*.

dear—(*adj.*) beloved; costly

deer—(*n.*) a four-footed, woodland animal

Those who hold wildlife *dear* object to the hunting of *deer*.

dense—(*adj.*) thick, compact

dents—(*n.*) marks on the surface

The hail made a *dense* pattern of *dents* in the hood of the car.

descent—(*n.*) a coming or going down; ancestry; a downward slope

dissent—(*v.*) to disagree; (*n.*) a difference of opinion

There is *dissent* among skiers about what is an appropriate *descent* for beginners.



"You're a **dear** to bring me my slippers."



The bully got his just deserts.

desert—(v.) to leave behind; to abandon; to run away from duty

dessert—(n.) the last part of a meal

Desert your diet and indulge in a rich *dessert*!

deserts—(n.) what is deserved; a reward or punishment

desserts—(n.) sweet foods

They received their just *deserts* for all their misdeeds.

It was difficult to pick only one of the tempting *desserts* offered.

deviser—(n.) an inventor; a contriver

divisor—(n.) a number in division by which the dividend is divided

She's the *deviser* of a method of teaching division that highlights the *divisor*.

dew—(n.) droplets of mist

do—(v.) to act; to finish; to put forth; to meet expectations

due—(adj.) owed; rightful; proper; expected; (prep.) because of

Due to the heavy *dew*, we *do* not have to water the grass.

die—(v.) to stop living; to end; (n.) a shaping tool

dye—(v.) to color or tint; (n.) a coloring

The use of *dye* for hiding gray hair is not expected to *die* soon.

disburse—(v.) to pay out

disperse—(v.) to scatter; to disband; to break up

The crowd, waiting for the bank to *disburse* funds, was asked to *disperse*.

discreet—(adj.) careful, prudent; having good judgment

discrete—(adj.) separate, distinct; unrelated

Always cautious, he spoke *discreetly* about several *discrete* matters.

doe—(n.) a female deer or rabbit

dough—(n.) a flour and liquid mixture for baking

The *doe* nursed five baby rabbits.

He flipped the pizza *dough*.

does—(n.) female deer or rabbits

doze—(v.) to nap; (n.) a light sleep

Does and their fawns *doze* in the shade of trees.

done—(v.) finished; performed

dun—(n.) a dull grayish color; (v.) to ask for payment of a debt

Her work was *done* well.

The store had to *dun* a few people for payment.

dual—(*adj.*) double; twofold; consisting of two

duel—(*n.*) an arranged fight between two persons or teams

The car had *dual* tailpipes.

The teams engaged in a *duel* for the title.

ducked—(*v.*) avoided; stooped quickly; bobbed

duct—(*n.*) a tube; a single, closed runway

After he was *ducked* in the pool, he felt that one ear *duct* was plugged.

dyeing—(*v.*) to color with dye

dying—(*v.*) expiring; ending

Dyeing Easter eggs can be artistic and fun.

Some believe that *dying* for a cause is heroic.



“A Dual Duel”



earn—(v.) to gain by labor; to merit; to deserve

urn—(n.) a large vase

If he's voted the most valuable player, he'll *earn* a handsome silver *urn*.

eave—(n.) the lower edge of a roof

eve—(n.) the day before a holiday; the evening

On Christmas *Eve*, Santa must be careful not to slip off an *eave*.

edition—*see* addition

educe—*see* adduce

eek—(interj.) a sound made in surprise

eke—(v.) to barely manage; to mete out

"*Eek!*" she screamed at the mouse.

They were able to *eke* out a living.

e'er—*see* air

erie—*see* aerie

effect—*see* affect

effected—*see* affected

effects—*see* affects

eight—*see* ate

elicit—(*v.*) to evoke; to draw forth

illicit—(*adj.*) unlawful; improper

Cruel and *illicit* acts can *elicit* the public's fury.

eluded—*see* alluded

elusion—(*n.*) the act of escaping; the avoidance of capture or detection

illusion—(*n.*) a false idea; an unreal perception

He created an *illusion* with blankets in his cell to aid in his *elusion*.

elusive—*see* allusive

ere—*see* air

errant—*see* arrant

ewe—(*n.*) a female sheep

yew—(*n.*) an evergreen tree

you—(*pron.*) one; anyone; people in general

You will discover a *ewe* giving birth behind that *yew*.

ewes—(*n.*) female sheep

yews—(*n.*) evergreen trees

use—(*v.*) to put into service; to employ; to treat; to consume

I will *use* a hedge of *yews* to fence in my herd of *ewes*.

exceed—*see* accede

except—*see* accept

exercise—(*n.*) active use or performance; an activity for developing the body or mind; (*v.*) to put into action; to use to develop or influence

exorcise (exorcize)—(*v.*) to drive away evil spirits by prayer; to free

The shaman will *exorcise* the demons with an *exercise* of faith.

eye—*see* aye

eyed—(*v.*) looked at

I'd—(*contr.*) I would; I should

I'd prefer not to be *eyed* too closely immediately after waking.

eyelet—(*n.*) a small hole

islet—(*n.*) a little island

He pulled the shoelace through the last *eyelet*.

We sailed by an *islet* in the channel.



faint—(*adj.*) weak; timid; (*v.*) to swoon

feint—(*n.*) a pretended attack

The *feint* from the would-be mugger left her feeling helpless and *faint*.

fair—(*n.*) a bazaar; (*adj.*) lovely; clear; honest; blond

fare—(*n.*) the price or fee; food

You pay a *fare* at the entrance to the *fair*.

fairy—(*n.*) a small magical being; (*adj.*) elfin

ferry—(*n.*) a boat used for crossing; (*v.*) to transport

The *fairy* godmother used a pumpkin to *ferry* Cinderella to the ball.

faker—(*n.*) one who deceives or defrauds others

fakir—(*n.*) a Muslim or Hindu monk; a member of an Islamic religion

A fraudulent *faker* claimed to be a dedicated *fakir*.

fane—(*n.*) a temple or church

feign—(*v.*) to pretend; to invent as an excuse

In order to escape from going to the *fane*, he tried to *feign* illness.

faro—(n.) a gambling game played with cards

Pharaoh—(n.) the title of an ancient Egyptian king

The *Pharaoh* was the king of hearts in the game of *faro*.

fate—(n.) destiny; one's fortune or final outcome

fete—(n.) a festive celebration; (v.) to honor or entertain

Fate decreed that I miss the *fete* honoring my father.

faun—(n.) a Roman deity, half goat half man

fawn—(n.) a young deer; (v.) to show delight like a dog

The tapestry portrayed a young *fawn* at the feet of a pipe-playing *faun*.

fay—(adj.) elfin, elflike

fey—(adj.) able to see the future; supernatural

The *fay* children danced in a magic circle.

The mystic claimed to be *fey*.

faze—(v.) to disturb; to upset; to embarrass

phase—(n.) a stage; a time period; (v.) to adjust; to schedule

Don't let her tantrums *faze* you; it's just a *phase* she's going through.

feat—(n.) a notable deed

feet—(n.) the plural of foot; units of measurement; appendages

His greatest *feat* was vaulting the crossbar at 20 *feet*.

fends—(v.) wards off; resists; manages alone

fens—(n.) low, flat marshy areas, swamps; monetary units in China

A hearty snack *fends* off hunger.

Wild geese like to nest in *fens*.



The crowd applauded his great feat.

few—(adj.) not many

phew—(interj.) an expression of disgust, surprise, or relief

Phew! I found a *few* of the lost keys safe in my pocket.

fiancé—(n.) an engaged man

fiancée—(n.) an engaged woman

He introduced his *fiancée* to his mother's distinguished *fiancé*.

filé—(n.) an ingredient in Creole cooking

fillet—(n.) a boneless cut of meat or fish; an ornamental narrow strip; (v.) to cut or prepare meat or fish

The gumbo with diced tuna *fillet* is flavored with *filé*.

filter—(n.) a substance that removes impurities;
(v.) to penetrate slowly

philter—(n.) a magic potion; (v.) to enchant or bewitch with
a potion

The sorcerer prepared the *philter*, then poured it through a *filter*.

fined—(v.) charged money; punished

find—(v.) to discover; to locate; to decide

You may be *fined* if the parking space you *find* is in a “no stopping zone.”

finish—(v.) to complete; to come to the end; to apply final
touches; (n.) the surface coating

Finnish—(adj.) of or from Finland

The *finish* on my *Finnish* furniture needs restoring.

fir—(n.) an evergreen tree

fur—(n.) the soft, thick hair of an animal

Dressed in *fur*, she walked through the grove of *fir* trees.

fisher—(n.) one who fishes; a large marten

fissure—(n.) a crack or cleft

The *fisher* tried to catch his dinner through a *fissure* in the ice.

flair—(n.) a sense of style; a talent; an ability

flare—(v.) to blaze up; to curve out; (n.) a signal light;
an outburst

His great *flair* for mystery caused a *flare* of curiosity.

flea—(n.) an insect

flee—(v.) to run away

Fleas will *flee* from your dog if you use the right treatment.

flew—(v.) did fly; escaped

flu—(n.) an illness

flue—(n.) a chimney pipe for smoke to escape

Our parakeet *flew* up the *flue*.

The *flu* season lasts several months.

flocks—(n.) locks of hair; multitudes of people, birds or animals; congregations; (v.) moves in large groups

phlox—(n.) a species of plant with showy flowers

Flocks of deer feasted on my *phlox*.

floe—(n.) floating ice

flow—(v.) to pour out; to glide; (n.) the movement of a liquid

The ice *floe* will *flow* out to sea.

flour—(n.) ground grain; (v.) to coat with flour, meal, or bread crumbs

flower—(n.) a blossom; (v.) to reach the best stage

Use *flour* to thicken the gravy.

The rose bush started to *flower*.

foaled—(v.) gave birth to a colt or filly

fold—(v.) to double over; to wrap; (n.) a pen for sheep

The mare *foaled* in the spring.

Please *fold* the napkins.

for—(prep.) directed to; in order to; because of

fore—(adj.) in favor of; (n.) the front; (interj.) a call of warning on the golf course

four—(n.) a number; one more than three

Four citizens *for* reducing taxes brought the matter to the *fore*.

foregone—(*adj.*) having gone before or previously

forgone—(*v.*) given up; refrained from

That's a *foregone* conclusion.

Further discussion will be *forgone*.

foreword—(*n.*) the preface in a book

forward—(*adj.*) bold; eager; (*adv.*) toward the front;

(*n.*) a player stationed in front; (*v.*) to send ahead

Looking *forward* to the completion of his book, the author wrote a lengthy *foreword*.

fort—(*n.*) a permanent army post; a fortified place

forte—(*n.*) a person's strong point; a specialty

His *forte* was designing impenetrable *forts*.

forth—(*adv.*) forward; onward

fourth—(*n.*) after third, before fifth

Go *forth* and march with pride on the *Fourth* of July.

foul—(*adj.*) filthy; bad; wicked; stormy; (*v.*) to entangle;
to hit outside the limits

fowl—(*n.*) birds used for food; any bird

The *fowl* were kept in a *foul*-smelling henhouse.

franc—(*n.*) a French, Belgian, and Swiss monetary unit

frank—(*adj.*) honest; open

The Minister of Finance was *frank* about the current value of the *franc*.



The first baseman caught a **foul** ball.

frays—(v.) wears out, makes ragged; (n.) small battles; quarrels

phrase—(n.) a group of related words

He *frays* his new jeans just to be fashionable.

A *phrase* does not contain a subject and a verb.

frees—(v.) releases; clears

freeze—(v.) to become frozen; to stop movement

frieze—(n.) a decorative panel

A generous grant *frees* the artist to paint the *frieze* of his dreams.

Water will *freeze* at 0° Celsius.

friar—(n.) a member of a religious order

fryer—(n.) a chicken; a pot for frying

The responsible *friar* prepared a *fryer* to serve to his brethren for dinner.



gaff—(*n.*) an iron hook for climbing or landing fish; a spar;
a spur; (*v.*) to hook

gaffe—(*n.*) a social blunder

It would be a *gaffe* to present a *gaff* to someone who doesn't fish.

gage—(*n.*) a glove thrown down as a token of a challenge;
a kind of plum

gauge—(*n.*) a measurement device; (*v.*) to estimate; to deter-
mine the exact measurement

It's hard to *gauge* how good the crop of *greengage* plums will
be this year.

gait—(*n.*) a pace; a manner of walking

gate—(*n.*) the door in a fence

The track team advanced through the *gate* at a moderate *gait*.

gall—(*n.*) audacity; something bitter; an abnormal growth in
plants; (*v.*) to chafe or rub

Gaul—(*n.*) a part of the ancient Roman Empire

He had the *gall* to say he traced his lineage back to *Gaul*.

gamble—(v.) to wager; to take a risk; (n.) a bet; a risk

gambol—(v.) to frolic; to skip about; (n.) a frolic

The lovers took a *gamble* and began to *gambol* in the fountain.

genes—(n.) genetic units

jeans—(n.) denim pants

The ability to wear tight Western *jeans* must be in your *genes*.

gibe—(v.) to taunt; (n.) a jeer

jibe—(n.) a sudden shift in direction; (v.) to be in accord

A *gibe* from the audience interrupted the speaker.

These findings do not *jibe* with the facts as I know them.



Gambling became an obsession.

gild—(v.) to coat with gold; to make more attractive

guild—(n.) an association of people

To learn how to *gild* an antique frame, you need not join a *guild*.

gilder—(n.) one who gilds

guilder—(n.) a monetary unit of the Netherlands

A Dutch *gilder's* work is worth many *guilders*.

gilt—(n.) a thin coating of gold

guilt—(n.) the blame for a wrongdoing

The *gilt* peeled off a trophy that I won long ago.

Sometimes it's difficult to determine *guilt*.

gin—(n.) a liquor; a card game; a machine used to process cotton

jinn—(n.) a magical spirit

A *jinn* emerged from a Persian urn and poured me a jigger of *gin*.

gnome—(n.) an imaginary dwarf

Nome—(n.) a city in Alaska

The *gnome* dwelt in a cave.

We'll fly to *Nome* today.

gnu—(n.) an antelope

knew—(v.) did understand; remembered

new—(adj.) fresh; for the first time

I *knew* that the *gnu* was *new* to the zoo.

gofer—(n.) an errand runner

gopher—(n.) a ground squirrel

The *gofer* arrived with our lunch.

The busy *gopher* searched for seeds.



A *gofer* brought her coffee.

gorilla—(n.) a large ape

guerrilla (guerilla)—(n.) a soldier in a small, irregular force

Modern *guerrillas* depend on guns.

Gorillas are becoming endangered.

gourd—(n.) the fruit of a plant

gored—(v.) pierced by an animal's horn

A hollow *gourd* makes a very fine ladle.

A bullfighter risks being *gored*.

grade—(n.) a class in school; a degree of slope, rank, or classification; (v.) to change the slant or slope; to evaluate

grayed—(v.) became older or gray-haired

As the population has *grayed*, some have maintained a fair *grade* of fitness.

graham—(*adj.*) made of whole wheat

gram—(*n.*) a metric unit of mass or weight

She was served a *gram* of *graham* crackers.

grate—(*v.*) to shred; to make a harsh sound; (*n.*) a metal grille

great—(*adj.*) large; fine; notable, important

Most *great* pasta recipes tell you to freshly *grate* the cheese.

grays—(*v.*) becomes gray or old

graze—(*v.*) to feed on grass; to eat lightly; to touch, rub, or scrape lightly

A sheltie will watch a flock *graze*, though it *grays* and goes lame.

grease—(*n.*) melted fat; (*v.*) to coat with oil; to lubricate

Greece—(*n.*) a country in Europe

In *Greece*, olive oil, not *grease*, is used for frying.

grill—(*v.*) to broil; to question; (*n.*) a broiled food; a restaurant

grille—(*n.*) an open framework of metal

There was an iron *grille* on each window of the *grill*.

grisly—(*adj.*) horrible, ghastly, grim

grizzly—(*n.*) a large, brown bear; (*adj.*) gray-haired, old

A *grizzly* bear is capable of *grisly* behavior.

groan—(*n.*) a deep sigh; (*v.*) to moan

grown—(*v.*) increased; matured

With a *groan*, I observed how much my girth has *grown*.

guessed—(v.) supposed; estimated
guest—(n.) a visitor

We *guessed* that the *guest* of honor was over eighty years old.

guise—(n.) an appearance; a style of dress; a semblance;
a pretense

guys—(n.) supporting ropes; fellows; (v.) guides; steadies

Riggers in the *guise* of circus clowns tightened the *guys* of the tent.



I **groan** when I see my waist has **grown**.



hail—(n.) ice pellets; (v.) to greet; to salute

hale—(adj.) healthy, vigorous

Even a *hale* and dedicated runner will not run in a *hail*storm.

hair—(n.) a threadlike growth; a very small degree

hare—(n.) a hopping animal

A *hare* never needs a *hair*cut.

hall—(n.) a passageway; a large room

haul—(v.) to drag, move by pulling

It takes strength to *haul* furniture down a long *hall*.

halve—(v.) to divide in half

have—(v.) to own, possess, get; to permit; to experience

If you *halve* the brownie, we'll each *have* a piece.

handmaid—(n.) a female servant or attendant; something subordinate

handmade—(adj.) made by hand, not by machine

Her *handmaid* wore a cap and an apron trimmed with *handmade* lace.

handsome—(*adj.*) good-looking

hansom—(*n.*) a two-wheeled carriage drawn by one horse

The driver in *handsome* livery stood by his *hansom* awaiting a fare.

hangar—(*n.*) a garage or repair shop for aircraft

hanger—(*n.*) a garment holder; one who hangs on

The *hangar* was full of planes.
Hang your coat upon a *hanger*.

hart—(*n.*) a male deer

heart—(*n.*) a symbol of love; an organ of the body; the core; spirit or courage

With great *heart*, the *hart* faced a hungry pack of dogs.



What a beautiful head of **hair**!

hay—(n.) dried plant stalks; (v.) to mow and dry grasses

hey—(interj.) a call to get attention

Hey! The haystack is ablaze!

hays—(n.) various dried plants; (v.) mows to make fodder

haze—(n.) a smoky mist; (v.) to subject freshmen to humiliating tricks

A farmer *hays* on dry days.

The city was clouded in a *haze*.

heal—(v.) to cure or mend

heel—(n.) a part of the foot, shoe, or sock; a scoundrel; an end slice of bread; (v.) to tilt as on a boat

he'll—(contr.) he shall; he will

He'll help me find a doctor that can *heal* the *heel* of my foot.

hear—(v.) to listen to

here—(adv.) in or on this place; at this point; now

Here in Nashville, you'll *hear* country music.

heard—(v.) did hear

herd—(v.) to move together; (n.) a group

She thought she *heard* a thundering *herd* of cattle.

hears—(v.) listens to

here's—(contr.) here is; here was

Here's a record of what the public *hears* during a political campaign.

he'd—(contr.) he had; he would

heed—(v.) to pay attention; to take notice

He'd only a second to *heed* their warning and avoid disaster.

heir—*see* air

heroin—(*n.*) a narcotic drug

heroine—(*n.*) a female hero

Heroin is a dangerous drug.

The *heroine* of the play was very brave.

hew—(*v.*) to chop down; to conform

hue—(*n.*) a tint of a color; an outcry

There will be a great *hue* if loggers *hew* ancient redwood trees.

hi—(*interj.*) an informal greeting, hello

high—(*adj.*) tall; lofty; elated; rich; costly; exalted;

(*adv.*) exceeding the common degree; (*n.*) an upper level on a scale

Hi. Let's go swimming at *high* tide.

hied—(*v.*) hastened; sped

hide—(*v.*) to conceal; to keep secret; (*n.*) an animal's pelt

He *hied* straight to the bank to *hide* his winnings from the others.

higher—(*adj.*) more high; loftier; further up

hire—(*v.*) to employ; (*n.*) the amount paid for services

I will *hire* you today at a *higher* rate of pay.

him—(*pron.*) that man

hymn—(*n.*) a sacred song

We listened to *him* explain the origin of our favorite *hymn*.

ho—(*interj.*) a cry to get attention

hoe—(*n.*) a tool for breaking up soil or mixing plaster

Ho! Wouldn't you rather *hoe* than pull all those weeds in your garden?

hoar—(n.) a whitish gray appearance due to age

whore—(n.) a woman who sells herself for money

Methuselah wore the *hoar* of his years.

The *whore* offered herself for a pittance.

hoard—(v.) to store; (n.) a hidden supply

horde—(n.) a swarm; a crowd

whored—(v.) behaved like a harlot; consorted with whores

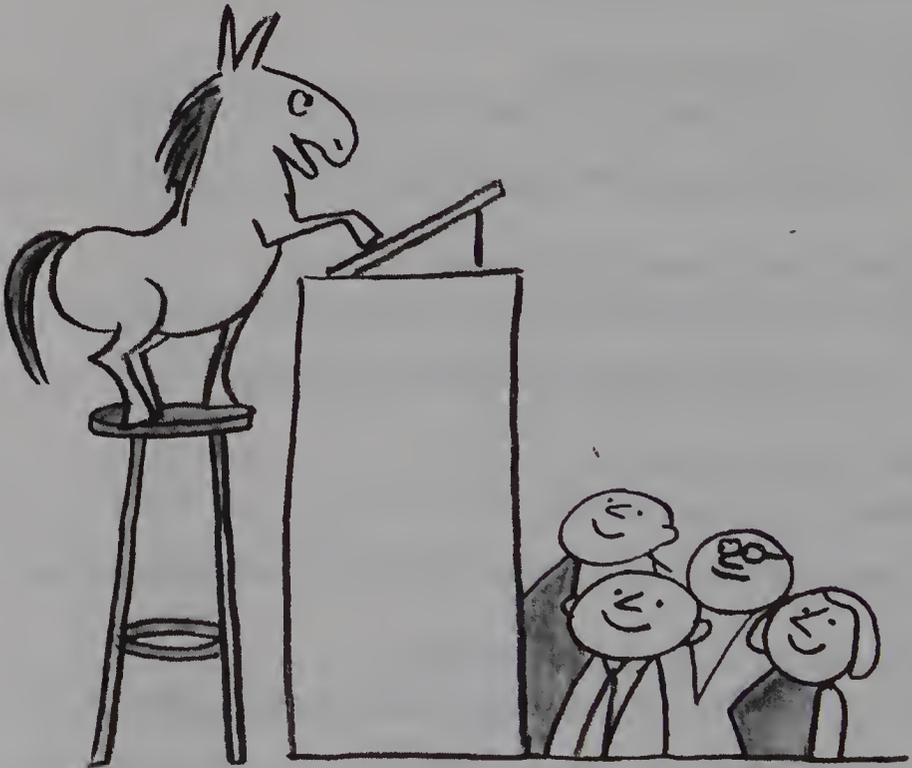
A *horde* of bees guarded their *hoard* of honey.

The rustlers drank and *whored* when they came into town.

hoarse—(adj.) having a rough, husky voice

horse—(n.) a large, four-legged animal

The jockey on the winning *horse* spoke with a very *hoarse* voice.



The speaker was a little hoarse.

hoes—(n.) tools for weeding; (v.) cultivates; weeds

hose—(n.) flexible tubing; stockings; (v.) to wash

The *hoes* and rakes were hung next to a coil of *hose* in the shed.

hole—(n.) a cavity; an opening

whole—(adj.) intact; complete; healthy

A *whole* family of woodpeckers lives in a *hole* in that tree.

holy—(adj.) sacred; pure

holey—(adj.) full of holes

wholly—(adv.) entirely, completely; fully; totally

They *wholly* believe that Yom Kippur is the most *holy* day of the year.

She wore a *holey*, old coat.

hoop—(n.) a circular band; a basketball rim; (v.) to fasten with a hoop

whoop—(n.) a loud shout, cry, or cough; an expression of joy

The crowd let out a *whoop* as the winning basket dropped through the *hoop*.

hostel—(n.) an inexpensive lodging place; an inn

hostile—(adj.) unfriendly; antagonistic

They felt that the staff at the *hostel* had been a bit *hostile*.

hour—(n.) 60 minutes

our—(pron.) belonging to or done by us

Our dinner will be ready in a half *hour*.



I—*see* aye

I'd—*see* eyed

idle—(*adj.*) inactive; useless

idol—(*n.*) an object of worship; an image; a false notion

idyl (idyll)—(*n.*) a poem or prose describing a pastoral scene;
a romantic affair

The *idle* beggars waited at the foot of the steps to the *idol*.
His *idyl* described a scene that was charming and picturesque.

I'll—*see* aisle

illicit—*see* elicit

illusion—*see* allusion; elusion

illusive—*see* allusive

immanent—(*adj.*) inherent; self-contained

imminent—(*adj.*) about to happen; impending; threatening

Some doctrines are *immanent* in religious faiths and change
does not appear *imminent*.

impassable—(*adj.*) can't be passed or traveled over
impassible—(*adj.*) calm; not feeling or showing emotion

The officer's face was *impassible* when he told us the road was *impassable*.

in—(*adv.*) inside; within
inn—(*n.*) a hotel or tavern

Once *in* our room at the *inn*, we unpacked and took a nap.

incidence—(*n.*) the rate of occurrence
incidents—(*n.*) the events

The *incidence* of serious *incidents* began to escalate.

indict—(*v.*) to accuse; to bring formal charges
indite—(*v.*) to compose; to write down; to create literature

When she learned they planned to *indict* her, the reporter could no longer *indite*.

innocence—(*n.*) purity; freedom from wrong; simplicity; lack of knowledge
innocents—(*n.*) those without guilt or guile; young persons

In their *innocence*, the *innocents* thought that their teacher lived at the school and was married to the janitor.

instance—(*n.*) an example
instants—(*n.*) moments

Think of an *instance* when just a few *instants* were critical.

intense—(*adj.*) very strong; extreme
intents—(*n.*) future plans; designs

The *intense* earthquake changed the developers' *intents*.

intercession—(n.) a plea or prayer on behalf of another

intersession—(n.) a short course between regular sessions

Thanks to my adviser's *intercession*, I was able to enroll in the *intersession*.

isle—see aisle

islet—see eyelet

it's—(contr.) it is; it has

its—(pron.) that which belongs to it

It's true that the car won because *its* driver was the best.

invade—(v.) to enter with force and take possession

inveighed—(v.) protested strongly; attacked with words

The king was eager to *invade*, but his men *inveighed* against it.



jam—(*n.*) a fruit preserve; congested traffic; (*v.*) to crowd;
to squeeze

jamb—(*n.*) the side post of a doorway

The toddler's hands left raspberry *jam* on the door*jamb*.

jeans—*see* genes

jibe—*see* gibe

jinks—(*n.*) lighthearted pranks; (*v.*) to make quick, jerky
movements

jinx—(*n.*) something one thinks to be bad luck; a spell;
(*v.*) to bring bad luck

You may laugh at your brother's high *jinks*, but I think he is a
jinx.

jinn—*see* gin



karat—*see* carat

kernel—*see* colonel

kill—(v.) to slay; to do away with; to destroy; to spoil;
to extinguish

kiln—(n.) an oven for baking pottery or bricks

We had to *kill* time waiting for the *kiln* to cool.

knave—(n.) a dishonest person; a rascal

nave—(n.) the main part of a church

While I was praying in the *nave*, some *knave* stole my wallet.

knead—(v.) to work by pressing, folding, and stretching

need—(n.) a requirement; an obligation; (v.) to want

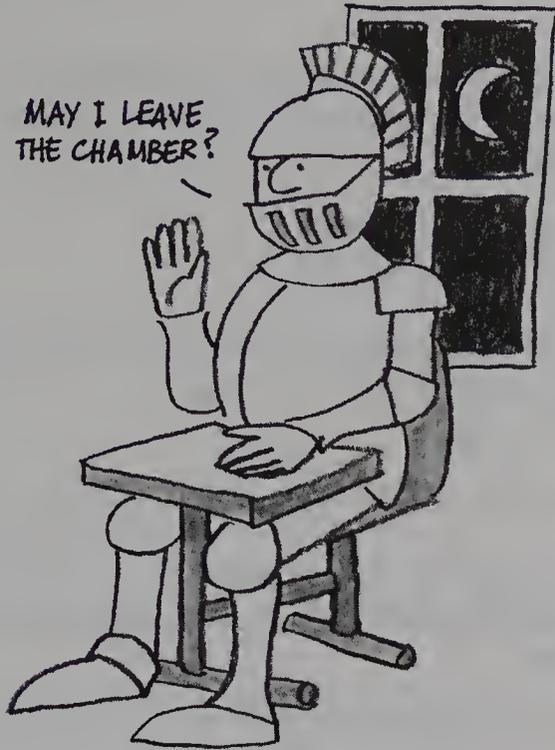
kneel—(v.) struck with a knee

A player may *need* a trainer to *knead* his sore muscles if he's *kneel* and roughed up in a game.

knee—(n.) the joint between the thigh and the leg; shaped
like a knee

nee—(adj.) born; indicates a maiden name or formerly known as

The dancer, Markova, *nee* Mary Smith, fell and injured her *knee*.



My brother is going to **night** school.

knew—see gnu

knickers—(n.) loose trousers ending just below the knee

nickers—(v.) neighs like a horse

A comic in plaid *knickers* trots about and *nickers* at the patrons.

knight—(n.) a rank or title of honor

night—(n.) a time of darkness

The *knight* mounted his horse and rode into the *night*.

knit—(v.) to loop yarn; to join together; to wrinkle the brow;
(adj.) tightly formed

nit—(n.) the egg of a parasitic louse

The broken bone was slow to *knit*.

One *nit* in your scalp is cause for concern.

knock—(v.) to rap, as on a door; to criticize

nock—(n.) a notch or groove on a bow or arrow; (v.) to adjust the bowstring

I heard a *knock* on the door.
I saw the archer *nock* his bow.

knot—(v.) to tie; (n.) a tight fastening; a flaw in wood; one nautical mile per hour; a tangle

not—(adv.) in no way

I'm *not* sure how a square *knot* is tied.

know—(v.) to recognize; to understand

no—(adv.) not so; not at all; (adj.) not any; not one; (n.) a refusal

No one seems to *know* why this is so.

knows—(v.) understands; recognizes

nose—(n.) a part of the face; the sense of smell

He has a perfumer's *nose* and *knows* what fragrances are in vogue.

kraft—see craft



The chef's nose knows!



lacks—(v.) is deficient; (n.) needs

lax—(adj.) loose; slack

A teacher *lacks* control when the classroom rules are *lax*.

lade—(v.) to load on; to burden or ladle

laid—(v.) did lay; placed; rested

The crew hired to *lade* the cargo ship *laid* their gear on the dock.

lain—(v.) has rested; has remained

lane—(n.) a narrow road; the route

All week, that broken branch has *lain* in the far left *lane*.

lama—(n.) a Tibetan monk

llama—(n.) a Peruvian animal

A poor *lama* from Tibet fell off a *llama* in Peru.

Lapps—(n.) Laplanders, persons native to Lapland

laps—(v.) drinks; gently splashes; overlaps; (n.) parts of a race

lapse—(n.) a small error; a passing of time; a termination of a privilege

The *Lapps* swam 40 *laps*.

He allowed his subscription to *lapse*.

lay—(v.) did lie down; rested; to put

lei—(n.) a garland of flowers

They *lay* in the grass on the hill.

The *lei* had a beautiful fragrance.

lays—(v.) rests; puts; sets in place; produces

laze—(v.) to idle or lounge lazily

Our dog likes to *laze* about the yard.

A hen *lays* eggs.

lea—(n.) a meadow or grassy field

lee—(n.) a protective shelter; the side that is sheltered

From the *lee* of the trees, they watched the squall cross the *lea*.

leach—(v.) to dissolve and wash away

leech—(n.) a bloodsucker

Drenching rain can *leach* nutrients from the soil.

Long ago, a doctor might apply a *leech* to heal his patient.

lead—(n.) a heavy metal; bullets; a weight

led—(v.) guided; directed; lived; brought as a result

Studies *led* to banning the use of *lead* paint.

leak—(n.) an accidental escape; (v.) to let out

leek—(n.) an onionlike vegetable

A plumber can usually fix a *leak*.

Leek soup is delicious.



Old pipes spring leaks.

lean—(v.) to bend or rest against; to tend to; (adj.) thin; spare; meager

lien—(n.) a legal claim on another's property for payment of a debt

The *lien* on my neighbor's house reflects his recent *lean* years.

leased—(v.) rented

least—(adj.) smallest or slightest

With the *least* bit of effort, I *leased* my apartment.

lends—(v.) loans; gives; imparts

lens—(n.) a curved piece of glass or plastic used in optical instruments; a part of the eye

A magnifying *lens* *lends* clarity to very small print.

lessen—(v.) to decrease, make less

lesson—(n.) something learned

To *lessen* your fear of performing, practice between every *lesson*.

lets—(v.) allows; permits; rents; causes to escape

let's—(contr.) let us

If our ticket *lets* us extend our visit, *let's* stay until Saturday.

levee—(n.) an embankment; a dike

levy—(v.) to fine or collect; (n.) a tax; the amount collected

What was the *levy* for repairing the broken *levee* after the flood?



To *lessen* your fear of performing, practice between every *lesson*.

liar—(*n.*) one who lies

lyre—(*n.*) a small, ancient harp

That *liar* says he owns a *lyre*, but I do not believe him.

lichen—(*n.*) a mosslike plant

liken—(*v.*) to compare

Lichen grows in patches on rocks.

I'd *liken* him to a squirrel.

lie—(*v.*) to tell a falsehood; to recline; (*n.*) an untruth

lye—(*n.*) a strong, alkaline substance

It would be a *lie* to say that *lye* is not a caustic substance.

limb—(*n.*) an arm, leg, or wing; a large branch of a tree

limn—(*v.*) to paint or draw; to describe

A fearless child might *limn* perched on the *limb* of a tree.

links—(*n.*) loops of a chain; a golf course; (*v.*) joins; connects

lynx—(*n.*) a wildcat with tufted ears

The *links* in the chain were not strong enough to restrain the *lynx*.

literal—(*adj.*) true to fact; strictly interpreted

littoral—(*adj.*) on the shore of a body of water

The surveyor's plan gave us a *literal* description of our property's *littoral* boundary.

lo—(*interj.*) look! see! behold

low—(*adj.*) not high or tall; deep; mean; below the normal level

Lo! See that flock of *low*-flying swans!

load—(n.) a burden; a large amount; (v.) to transfer

lode—(n.) a metal deposit in the earth; a rich supply

lowed—(v.) made the sound of cattle

A crane was used to *load* the ore from the rich *lode* onto trucks.
The cows *lowed* as they settled in their stalls.

loan—(v.) to lend; (n.) what was borrowed

lone—(adj.) alone; apart; single

A *lone* investor was willing to *loan* me the money I needed.

loath—(adj.) unwilling; reluctant

loathe—(v.) to detest, abhor; to feel disgust

I *loathe* someone who is *loath* to admit a gross error.

lochs—(n.) lakes

locks—(n.) devices for securing; gates for changing water
depth; curls of hair; (v.) fastens; links; jams together

lox—(n.) smoked salmon; rocket fuel

A waitress with raven *locks* served my order of bagels and *lox*.
Scotland has many large, deep *lochs*.

loot—(v.) to plunder; (n.) stolen goods

lute—(n.) an ancient stringed instrument

The robber's *loot* included three guitars and a *lute*.

lumbar—(adj.) of or near the loins

lumber—(n.) timber sawed into boards; (v.) to cut timber;
to move heavily and noisily

After breaking a *lumbar* vertebra, he could barely *lumber* along.



made—(v.) prepared; created; did; caused; appointed; induced;
produced

maid—(n.) a servant; a young woman

The hotel *maid* *made* our beds.

mail—(n.) postal material; the fabric of a knight's armor;
(v.) to send

male—(n.) the masculine sex

This *mail* is addressed to your *male* companion.



The **mail**box was full.

main—(n.) the chief part; the open ocean; (adj.) most important; utmost

mane—(n.) the long hair on an animal's neck

Maine—(n.) a New England state

The lion's *mane* is one of his *main* physical features.
Maine produces potatoes, lobsters, and wild blueberries.

maize—(n.) corn; a pale, yellow color

maze—(n.) a confusing network

I wonder if playful Indian youths ever planted *maize* in a *maze*.

mall—(n.) a shopping center; a shaded walk

maul—(n.) a heavy mallet; (v.) to injure; to handle roughly

A vicious dog could *maul* someone if allowed to run free in a *mall*.

manner—(n.) a method; a way of acting

manor—(n.) the main house on an estate; the estate

We were greeted in a friendly *manner* by the lord of the *manor*.

mantel—(n.) the shelf above or the front of a fireplace

mantle—(n.) a cloak; (v.) to cover

Above the *mantel* hung a portrait of a lady in a crimson *mantle*.

marc—(n.) a brandy; the residue after grapes have been squeezed

mark—(n.) a spot or scratch; an imprint; a sign or symbol; a target; German money; (v.) to show; to set off; to take notice of; to rate

The bottle of *marc* bore the *mark* of the winery.

marry—(v.) to wed; to join; to unite

Mary—(n.) a girl's name

merry—(adj.) lively; full of fun

We'll have a *merry* celebration when *Mary* decides to *marry*.

marshal—(n.) a sheriff; a military commander; (v.) to lead

martial—(adj.) warlike

A karate teacher is trained to *marshal* students of *martial* arts.

marten—(n.) a weasel-like animal; its fur

martin—(n.) a bird, a swallow

A *marten* has soft, glossy fur.

We purchased a purple *martin* house.

massed—(adj.) gathered in a large group

mast—(n.) a tall, upright pole; a spar; nuts of forest trees
used as food

The *massed* clouds hid the sun.

The boat's *mast* was made of aluminum.

mat—(n.) a piece of fabric or pad used as a protective cover;
material serving as a picture border; a thick tangled
mass; (v.) to cover; to interweave; to frame

matte—(adj.) having a dull surface or finish

The picture had a white *mat* in a silver frame with a *matte* finish.

mean—(v.) to intend; (adj.) unkind; stingy; degraded;
(n.) the middle; average

mien—(n.) manner; bearing

Just because one has a noble *mien* does not *mean* that he's noble.

meat—(n.) food; the edible part of a nut

meet—(v.) to be introduced; to assemble; to be present; to fulfill

mete—(v.) to pass out, distribute

Let's *meet* at a cafeteria where they *mete* out big servings of
meat and vegetables.

medal—(n.) an award or decoration

meddle—(v.) to interfere; to tamper

Don't expect a *medal* if you *meddle* in others' affairs.

melee—(n.) a confused fight; a hand-to-hand struggle

Malay—(n.) a peninsula of Thailand

We read about the ugly *melee* in *Malay*.

metal—(n.) an element like gold, iron, brass, or copper

mettle—(n.) courage; spirit

The *metalworkers* displayed their *mettle* as they negotiated a new contract.

mewl—(v.) to cry like a newborn baby; to whimper

mule—(n.) the animal offspring of a mare and a donkey;
a slipper

The youngster began to *mewl* when he was denied a ride on a *mule*.

mews—(n.) the cries of cats or gulls; British stables; cages for hawks; a secluded street; (v.) to molt

muse—(v.) to meditate; to reflect; (n.) a goddess of the arts; a poet's or artist's inspiration

A statue of the *muse* Thalia stood at the gate to the *mews*.

might—(v.) may; (n.) power; strength

mite—(n.) a tiny insect; a very small creature or amount

You *might* be surprised if a birthday gift comes a *mite* early.

mil—(n.) a unit of length equal to 0.001 of an inch

mill—(n.) a factory; (v.) to grind; to move about in a crowd

A *mil* is critical when you *mill* the bore of a gun barrel.



mince—(v.) to cut in small pieces; to act very daintily

mints—(n.) candies; herbs; places where a government makes money

Mince the onions.

Pass the *mints*.

mind—(v.) to obey; to care; (n.) thoughts; memory; opinion; intelligence; attention

mined—(v.) dug from the earth; was excavated; laid with explosive

The builders don't *mind* that the land had once been *mined*.

miner—(n.) a worker in a mine

minor—(n.) a juvenile person

Many a *minor* was forced to become a *miner* and work below in the mines.

minks—(n.) small, fur-bearing animals

minx—(n.) a pert, flirtatious girl

A pretty, young *minx* in the shop showed us the pelts of soft, brown *minks*.

missal—(n.) a book of prayers

missile—(n.) a weapon fired toward a target

Turn to page eight in the *missal*.

The *missile* destroyed its target.

missed—(v.) failed to hit, meet, do, attend, see, or hear

mist—(v.) to spray with water; (n.) a thin fog; water vapor

Due to the heavy *mist*, we *missed* a left turn in the road.

moan—(n.) a low, sad cry; (v.) to complain

mown—(v.) was mowed; was destroyed

She let out a *moan* when she saw that her flower bed had been *mown*.

moat—(n.) a ditch dug for defense

mote—(n.) a tiny speck of dust

The *moat* around the castle was empty.

I think I have a *mote* in my eye.

mode—(n.) style; fashion; a manner of acting or doing;
a method

mowed—(v.) cut down grass or grain

Flying is a modern *mode* of transportation.

She *mowed* the lawn.

mooed—(v.) made the sound of a cow

mood—(n.) an attitude; an emotional tone or outlook; a frame of mind

The cows at the petting zoo *mooed* at the children.
Our guests were in a festive *mood*.

moose—(n.) a large animal living in Northern regions

mousse—(n.) a light, airy food, usually a dessert; a hair dressing

Avoid hitting a *moose* at all costs.
We ordered chocolate *mousse*.

morning—(n.) the first part of the day

mourning—(v.) showing grief

The Seven Dwarfs stood silently from *morning* till night
mourning Snow White.

mucous—(adj.) secreting mucus; slimy

mucus—(n.) the thick substance secreted for moistening and protection

The *mucus* secreted by *mucous* membranes protects and lubricates.

muscle—(n.) strength; an organ of the body

mussel—(n.) a shellfish

A tiny *muscle* in the shell of the *mussel* is released when cooked.

mussed—(v.) made messy; ruffled; (n.) a state of disorder

must—(v.) used to express necessity, probability, or certainty;
(n.) mold

My hair is badly *mussed*, so I *must* find my comb.

mustard—mustered

mustard—(n.) a spicy yellow condiment; a plant with yellow flowers

mustered—(v.) enlisted; gathered; assembled

The men *mustered* at the canteen for hot dogs with ketchup and *mustard*.



Navel oranges are the best.



naval—(*adj.*) of or for a navy

navel—(*n.*) the belly button; the central point or middle

She went to the *Naval* Academy.

A *navel* orange is easy to peel.

nave—*see* knave

nay—(*adv.*) not only but also; indeed; (*n.*) a negative vote

neigh—(*n.*) the whinny of a horse; (*v.*) to utter the whinny

The vote was ten ayes and one *nay*.

The gelding greeted me with a *neigh*.

nee—*see* knee

need—*see* knead

new—*see* gnu

nickers—*see* knickers

nicks—(*n.*) small dents, chips, or wounds; (*v.*) injures slightly;
grooves

nix—(*v.*) to veto; (*adv.*) no

Knicks—(*n.*) a New York basketball team

Due to the *nicks* in their roster of players, the *Knicks* may decide to *nix* their trip to Japan.

niece—Nice

niece—(*n.*) the daughter of one's or one's spouse's sister or brother

Nice—(*n.*) a city in southern France

I met my *niece* in *Nice* and we drove to Monaco.

night—*see* knight

nit—*see* knit

no—*see* know

nock—*see* knock

Nome—*see* gnome

none—(*pron.*) no one, not any, not at all

nun—(*n.*) a woman in a religious order

None of my classmates chose to become a *nun*.

nose—*see* knows

not—*see* knot



Guess which **one** of my friends won bingo!



oar—(*n.*) a long-handled paddle

or—(*conj.*) a word giving a choice of two; otherwise or else

ore—(*n.*) a mineral or metal for mining

o'er—(*adv.*) poetic form of over

He used an *oar* to push off from the shore.

You *or* I will go.

The company mined iron *ore*.

They searched *o'er* land and sea.

ode—(*n.*) a lyric poem

owed—(*v.*) was in debt; was indebted

The poet said he *owed* his *ode* to Ulysses.

oh—(*interj.*) a cry of surprise, pain, sympathy or to get attention

owe—(*v.*) to be in debt

Oh! I know it's good to *owe* nothing, but credit cards make that difficult.

one—(*n.*) a single thing or person; (*adj.*) united; the same

won—(*v.*) did win

One of my friends *won* the lottery!

oppose—*see* appose

oral—*see* aural

oriole—*see* aureole

outcast—(*n.*) a person who is rejected; a homeless wanderer;
(*adj.*) kept out of home or society

outcaste—(*n.*) an Indian person who has left or been expelled
from a caste

An itinerant drifter is an *outcast* from society.

She refused an arranged marriage and thus became an *outcaste*.

our—*see* hour

overdo—(*v.*) to do to excess; to overindulge

overdue—(*adj.*) late; past due

You'll be exhausted if you *overdo*.

The library sent *overdue* notices.

overseas—(*adj.*) foreign; abroad; (*adv.*) beyond or across the
sea

oversees—(*v.*) watches; manages; supervises

He *oversees* production in our factory *overseas*.



paced—(v.) walked back and forth; measured the distance; set the pace; (adj.) rate of speed

paste—(n.) an adhesive; (v.) to stick on

The large cat *paced* in his cage.

Spread the *paste* on the back of the poster.

packed—(v.) placed things together; crammed; packaged

pact—(n.) an agreement; a contract

After the *pact* was signed, the diplomats *packed* and left for home.

paean—(n.) an outpouring of praise; a hymn of joy

paeon—(n.) a metric foot in verse

peon—(n.) an unskilled worker; a farm laborer

Her book caused a *paean* of praise.

A *paeon* has one long and three short syllables.

A *peon* is a person at the bottom of the social scale.

pail—(n.) a bucket

pale—(adj.) lacking color; faint; feeble; (n.) a fence picket

The painter mixed a *pale* shade of yellow in his *pail*.

pain—(n.) suffering; distress; (v.) to hurt

pane—(n.) a section of window glass

A cut from a broken windowpane can cause considerable *pain*.

pair—(n.) two of a kind; a couple; (v.) to match up

pare—(v.) to peel; to cut, trim

pear—(n.) the fruit or tree

I will *pare* and slice a *pair* of Bartlett *pears* for dessert.

palate—(n.) the roof of the mouth; the sense of taste

palette—(n.) a painter's board for mixing colors; the range of colors

pallet—(n.) a thin bed on the floor; a wooden platform

A gourmet has a discerning *palate*.

The artist mixed oil paints on his *palette*.

The forklift moved machinery on a *pallet*.

parish—(n.) a church district; a local church

perish—(v.) to die; to pass away; to disappear; to suffer ruin

A small *parish* may *perish* without support from the community.

parlay—(v.) to gamble; to use to achieve great gain

parley—(v.) to confer; (n.) a conference to discuss disputed points

He hoped to *parlay* his winnings on the next race, but after a *parley* with friends, he decided not to bet.

passable—(adj.) usable; acceptable; barely satisfactory

passible—(adj.) capable of feelings; emotional

The road was *passable* after the storm.

The depth of her grief was in keeping with her *passible* nature.



Memories of his *past* passed through his mind.

passed—(v.) went by; moved forward or through

past—(adj.) in time gone by; (n.) the history

As he drifted off to sleep, memories of his *past* passed before his eyes.

patience—(n.) a calm endurance

patients—(n.) those getting medical care

The *patients* waiting in the clinic were running out of *patience*.

pause—(n.) a brief stop; (v.) to hesitate

paws—(n.) animals' feet; (v.) touches roughly

Without a *pause*, the keeper lifted the lion's *paws* to examine them.

peace—(n.) quiet; freedom from war; a state of harmony

piece—(n.) a part; a segment or an example

After I gave them a *piece* of my mind, there was *peace* in the house.

peak—(n.) the high point, the top; (v.) to reach the top

peek—(n.) a quick look; (v.) to take a quick look

perch—(v.) to rouse, excite; (n.) resentment

On the ride to the *peak* you can *peek* at the trails below.
Strange behavior is sure to *perch* the curiosity of others.

peal—(n.) loud ringing sound; (v.) to ring

peel—(n.) the skin or rind; (v.) to pare; to lose a top skin layer

I will sit and *peel* an apple while the bells of the carillon *peal*.

pearl—(n.) a precious bead; (adj.) a very pale gray

purl—(n.) a knitting stitch

She knitted a *pearl*-colored sweater with a knit-two and *purl*-two stitch.

pedal—(n.) a foot lever; (v.) to press with the feet; to propel

peddle—(v.) to move about and sell things

Gears help you *pedal* up hills.

He came to *peddle* his wares.

peer—(v.) to look closely; (n.) an equal; a British nobleman

pier—(n.) a long dock; a column

The spy would *peer* through binoculars until he saw his contact waiting at the end of the *pier*.

pekoe—(n.) a tea made from the first three leaves of the tea plant

picot—(n.) a small, decorative edging on ribbon or lace

The *pekoe* tea stained my lace collar with the *picot* trim.

penance—(n.) self-punishment; repentance for sins

pennants—(n.) long, tapered flags

The lad is doing *penance* for stealing the other team's *pennants*.

pend—(v.) to remain undecided; unsettled

penned—(v.) wrote with a pen

I *penned* a note to my lawyer because the settlement continues to *pend*.

pendant—(n.) a hanging ornament; a locket

pendent—(adj.) hanging; suspended

There, *pendent* from her slender throat, was a jeweled *pendant*.

pervade—(v.) to become spread throughout; to pass through

purveyed—(v.) provided food as a business; catered

News of her skill will soon *pervade* the neighborhood. She has *purveyed* delicious feasts for years.

petrel—(n.) a sea bird

petrol—(n.) gasoline; petroleum

A *petrel* landed on the forward deck. We filled the tank with *petrol*.

pew—(*n.*) a bench in church

pugh—(*interj.*) expressing disgust at an offensive odor

We sat quietly in our *pew* before the service.

Pugh! I smell rotten eggs!

Pharaoh—*see* *faro*

phase—*see* *faze*

phew—*see* *few*

philter—*see* *filter*

phlox—*see* *flocks*

phrase—*see* *frays*

pidgin—(*n.*) a simplified form of a language

pigeon—(*n.*) a kind of bird

We spoke in *pidgin* English.

A *pigeon* left a mess on the roof of my car.

Pilate—(*n.*) a Roman agent in the Bible

pilot—(*n.*) a qualified operator; a guide; a leader

Pontius *Pilate* lived in the year 1 A.D.

The *pilot* landed the plane.

piqué—(*n.*) a ribbed cotton fabric

piquet—(*n.*) a two-handed card game

She played *piquet* in a cool *piqué* dress.

pistil—(*n.*) the seed-bearing part of a flower

pistol—(*n.*) a small handgun

A bee landed on the flower's *pistil*.

He drew a *pistol* and fired.

plaice—(*n.*) a kind of fish

place—(*n.*) a space or spot; a position; a duty; a location;

(*v.*) to put; to appoint; to assign

This is the *place* where I caught a lot of *plaice*.

plain—(*adj.*) simple; clear; level; homely; (*n.*) a broad, flat, expanse of land

plane—(*n.*) an aircraft; a flat surface; a woodworking tool; a kind of tree; (*v.*) to glide on the surface

It was *plain* that he knew how to handle a *plane*.

plait—(*n.*) a braid of hair; (*v.*) to braid

plate—(*n.*) a shallow dish; a smooth, flat piece of metal;

(*v.*) to cover with metal

Plait flowers and ribbons in your hair.

I chipped my grandmother's *plate*.

pleas—(*n.*) appeals; excuses; requests; entreaties

please—(*v.*) to satisfy; a polite request; to have the wish

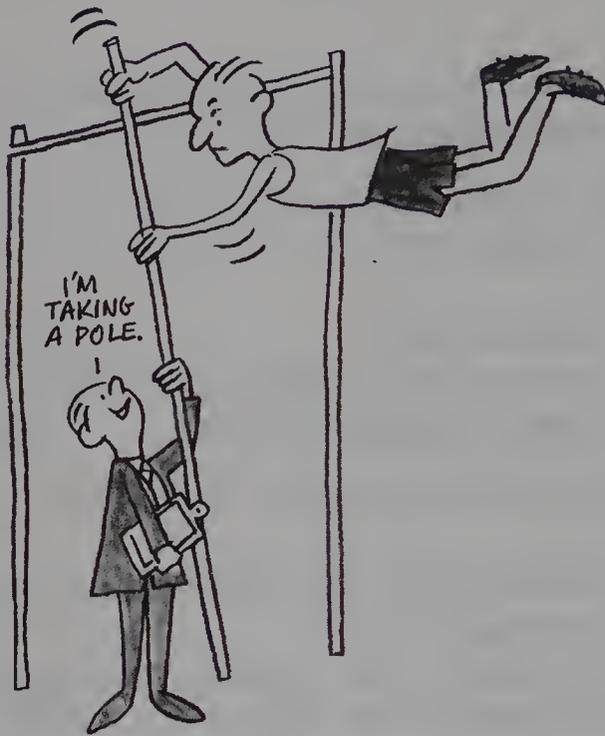
Please, do not ignore their *pleas* for justice in this matter.

plum—(*n.*) the fruit; a tree; a rewarding job

plumb—(*adj.*) in a straight line; (*v.*) to probe; (*n.*) a lead weight

She made a *plum* tart.

A submarine can *plumb* the ocean's depths.



pole—(n.) a tall, round rod; an opposing point; a point of interest; (v.) to push along with a pole

Pole—(n.) a native or resident of Poland

poll—(n.) a place to vote; a gathering of opinions;
(v.) to canvass; to register

The *Pole* read a sign on the *pole* that gave directions to the *polls*.

pore—(v.) to study carefully; (n.) a tiny opening

pour—(v.) to flow freely; to rain heavily

Sweat will *pour* from every *pore* in a steam bath or sauna.

praise—(v.) to commend; (n.) strong approval

prays—(v.) implores; asks in prayer

preys—(v.) hunts for food; robs or kills

Praise can be very motivating.

A nation *prays* for peace.

An owl *preys* on mice.

precedence—(*n.*) priority in rank; ranked according to importance

precedents—(*n.*) earlier actions that establish a model or an example

The *precedents* of the Olympics dictate that gold medal winners take *precedence* in the parade.

premier—(*n.*) the first in importance or rank; a prime minister

premiere—(*n.*) a first performance or opening

The *premier* and his wife attended the *premiere* of the new musical.

presence—(*n.*) being present; the immediate surroundings; a dignified appearance

presents—(*n.*) gifts

The *presents* were opened in the *presence* of all of the guests.

pride—(*n.*) self-esteem; great satisfaction

pried—(*v.*) extracted with difficulty; snooped

He felt *pride* having successfully *pried* the secret from her lips.

pries—(*v.*) wedges open; snoops

prize—(*n.*) a reward; (*v.*) to value highly

He should win a *prize* if he *pries* open ten oysters a minute.

primer—(*n.*) an elementary textbook

primmer—(*adj.*) more prim; very proper

The youngster read from a *primer*.

Fashions are not getting *primmer*.

prince-prints

prince—(n.) a king's son; any outstanding person

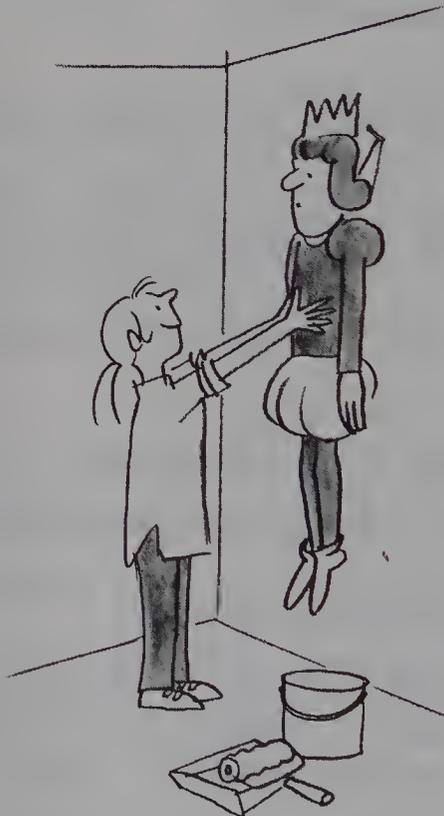
prints—(n.) marks; designs; impressions; photographs;
(v.) writes; stamps; produces

The shop is selling *prints* of the handsome *prince* and his bride.

principal—(adj.) foremost; (n.) the head of a school;
the amount of a debt or investment

principle—(n.) a basic truth; a rule of law or ethics

Our *principal* spoke to the students about the *principle* of fair play.



When the paint dried she hung up her **prints**.

profit—(v.) to benefit; (n.) financial gain

prophet—(n.) one who predicts the future; a religious leader

One may *profit* from listening to the forecast of a *prophet*.

pros—(n.) (*abbrev.*) professionals

prose—(n.) ordinary language, not poetry

The workshop on writing *prose* was led by a group of *pros*.

Psalter—(n.) a book of psalms or sacred songs and poems

salter—(n.) a device for spreading salt; one who spreads salt

The congregation opened the *Psalter* and read in unison.

The *salter* followed the snowplow down the highway.



quarts—(*n.*) liquid amounts of 32 ounces

quartz—(*n.*) rock crystal

The geologist used *quarts* of water to clean his samples of *quartz*.

queue—*see* cue

quire—*see* choir

quince—(*n.*) a hard yellowish fruit; the tree it grows on

quints—(*n.*) (*abbrev.*) quintuplets

The *quints* all like *quince* jam on toast.



rabbet—(v.) to make cuts; (n.) a cut in wood

rabbit—(n.) a long-eared animal

I will *rabbet* the front of the chest so the door will close tightly.
Our *rabbit* escaped from its cage.

rain—(n.) drops of water; (v.) to pour down

reign—(v.) to rule; (n.) a period of sovereignty

rein—(v.) to curb; (n.) a leather strap

It may *rain* today.
The king's *reign* was very short.
Rein in your horse!

raise—(v.) to lift; to increase; to cause to grow; to collect

rays—(n.) shafts of light; large, flat fishes

raze—(v.) to tear down; to demolish

The sun's *rays* will *raise* your spirits.
We have to *raze* the burned building.

rancor—(n.) bitter resentment or ill will; malice

ranker—(adj.) more offensive smelling; coarser

With *rancor*, I told him that he was *ranker* than anyone else.



King George reigned over England.

rap—(v.) to strike; to knock; (n.) a quick blow

wrap—(n.) an outer covering; (v.) to enclose; to wind or fold

There was a *rap* at the door.
I must *wrap* the gifts tonight.

rapped—(v.) struck with quick blows

rapt—(adj.) engrossed; carried away by emotion

wrapped—(v.) wound or folded around; covered; enclosed

The conductor *rapped* his baton.
Rapt listeners were soon *wrapped* up in the beautiful music.

real—(adj.) true; actual

reel—(n.) a spool; (v.) to wind up; to whirl or stagger

His story is *real*; the fish broke his *reel*.

red—(n.) a primary color

read—(v.) learned from printed words; understood

Seated on a *red* couch, he *read* until midnight.

reed—(n.) a tall, thin grass; a musical instrument; part of the mouthpiece

read—(v.) to utter printed words; to gain information from print

He put a new *reed* in his clarinet and began to *read* the music.

reek—(v.) to smell strongly; (n.) a strong smell

wreak—(v.) to inflict damage; to express anger

A room can *reek* of smoke.

A tornado can *wreak* havoc.



The conductor **rapped** his baton.

residence—(n.) a place where one lives

residents—(n.) people who live in a place; doctors in training

The hospital provides a *residence* for all of its surgical *residents*.

rest—(v.) to lean or relax; (n.) sleep; a break; what is left

wrest—(v.) to pull or force away with a twist

The bully tried to *wrest* the *rest* of my things from me.

retch—(v.) to try to vomit

wretch—(n.) a miserable person

The poor *wretch* ran to the railing to *retch*.

review—(v.) to go over again; to evaluate; (n.) an inspection; a report; a journal

revue—(n.) a musical show with dancing and skits

The critics' *review* of a new Broadway *revue* is very enthusiastic.

rheum—(n.) a watery discharge from nose and eyes

room—(n.) an interior space; the scope for something

The *rheum* from his cold was annoying.

We painted the *room* a soft blue.

rhumb—(n.) a point of the compass; a proposed course

rum—(n.) an alcoholic liquor

They used the *rhumb* line to plot their course.

Rum is served in the islands with fruit juice.

rigger—(n.) one who works with ropes

rigor—(n.) strictness; severity; scrupulous accuracy

A *rigger* on a tall ship must work with faithful *rigor*.

right—(*adj.*) correct; fitting; (*n.*) the opposite of left; a legal privilege

rite—(*n.*) a ritual; a ceremony

write—(*v.*) to form letters; to communicate with pen or pencil; to compose music, poetry, or literature

wright—(*n.*) an artisan

A shipwright and a playwright should create with care.
He was the *right* person to *write* about the African *rite* of passage.

ring—(*n.*) a piece of jewelry; (*v.*) to make the sound of a bell; to encircle

wring—(*v.*) to squeeze and twist

She lost her favorite *ring*.
Wring out the wet laundry.

road—(*n.*) a way made for travel

rode—(*v.*) did ride

rowed—(*v.*) did go in a boat with oars

We *rode* down the *road* on our bikes.
They *rowed* down the river.

roads—(*n.*) ways; highways

Rhodes—(*n.*) an island near Greece

Many of the *roads* on *Rhodes* were unimproved.

roam—(*v.*) to wander

Rome—(*n.*) a city in Italy

It was a lovely day to *roam* the streets of *Rome*.

roc—(n.) in ancient lore, a big, powerful, predatory bird

rock—(n.) a large stone; a firm foundation; (v.) to move from side to side

The *roc* dropped a huge *rock* on the soldiers guarding the castle.

roe—(n.) fish eggs; a kind of deer

row—(n.) in a line; (v.) to propel by oars

Several kinds of *roe* can be used to make caviar.
Our seats were in the second *row*.

role—(n.) a part to act; a responsibility

roll—(n.) a small portion of bread; a list; a length of paper;
(v.) to move; to turn over; to form a ball

She played the tragic *role* of Medea.
The baby learned how to *roll* over.

roomer—(n.) one who rents a room

rumor—(n.) gossip

The *rumor* is that your *roomer* is very attractive but unfriendly.

root—(n.) the underground part of a plant; a cause; the basic part; (v.) to dig up with a snout

route—(n.) a road or course for travel; (v.) to plan a course to take

Poverty is one *root* of crime.
We chose the shortest *route* home.

rose—(n.) the flower; a color; (v.) did rise

rows—(v.) uses oars; (n.) orderly lines

They planted the *rose* garden in four long *rows*.



The golfer was in the rough.

rote—(n.) routine; by habit; memorized

wrote—(v.) did write

We *wrote* the multiplication tables until we knew them by *rote*.

rough—(adj.) not smooth; noisy; rude; (n.) the uneven ground by a golf course

ruff—(n.) a ruffled collar; (v.) to trump in a card game

The painting depicted a *rough*-looking gentleman wearing a *ruff*.

rouse—(v.) to stir up, excite

rows—(n.) noisy quarrels

The *rows* in our neighbor's apartment are sure to *rouse* everyone in our building.

rout—(n.) a mob; a total defeat; (v.) to force out

route—(n.) a road or course to follow; (v.) to schedule a path to follow

The commander's bold *route* brought about the enemy's *rout*.

rude—(adj.) impolite; crude

rued—(v.) regretted; was sorry

She *rued* the one time she was thoughtlessly *rude* to her friend.

rue—(v.) to regret; (n.) a variety of plant

roux—(n.) a blend of thickening agents in cooking

If you don't add a *roux* to your gravy, you may *rue* the thin result.

rung—(v.) did ring; (n.) the step of a ladder or chair

wrung—(v.) twisted

The bell had *rung* twice.

He anxiously *wrung* his hands.

rye—(n.) a cereal grain

wry—(adj.) distorted; ironic

I'll have a ham sandwich on *rye* bread.

His *wry* smile told me that I should be suspicious.



sac—(*n.*) a pouch in a plant or an animal

sack—(*n.*) a soft bag; (*v.*) to plunder

The bee's honey *sac* is in its abdomen.
She dropped a *sack* of groceries.

sail—(*n.*) a part to catch the wind; (*v.*) to glide smoothly;
to navigate on water

sale—(*n.*) a special offering at reduced prices; an exchange for
money

The ad said, "Every windsurfer *sail* is on *sale* today."

salter—*see* Psalter

sane—(*adj.*) sound of mind; sensible

seine—(*n.*) a fish net; (*v.*) to fish with a net

Seine—(*n.*) a river that flows through Paris

No *sane* man would use a *seine* to try to fish in the *Seine*.

sari (saree)—(*n.*) a garment worn by women in India

sorry—(*adj.*) feeling regret, pity, sympathy

She was *sorry* that the elegant *sari* did not fit her.



She was **sorry** the beautiful **sari** did not fit.

saver—(n.) a person who saves or avoids waste

savor—(v.) to enjoy; (n.) a particular taste or smell

When I retire, I will *savor* the rewards from being a thrifty *saver*.

scene—(n.) the setting; a place; a part of a play or film;
an incident

seen—(v.) viewed; visited; recognized; observed; thought;
found out

The road conditions at the *scene* of the crash were *seen* as its major cause.

scent—see cent

scull—(n.) a racing shell or boat; an oar mounted on the back;
(v.) to row with an oar from side to side

skull—(n.) the bones of the head

The rowing team bought a new *scull*.

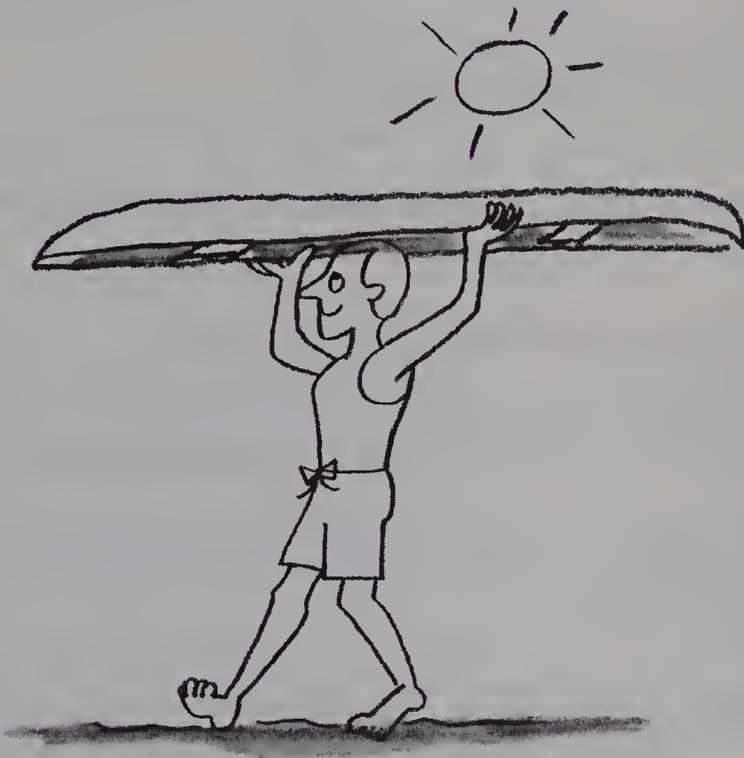
The *skull* protects the brain.

sea—(n.) the ocean; the waves

see—(v.) to look; to understand; to learn; to view; to meet;
to visit

When you *see* an angry *sea*, you sense its awesome power.

sealing—see ceiling



The **scull** protects the **skull**.

seam—(n.) the place where two parts are joined together;
(v.) to join with stitches

seem—(v.) to appear; to look like

I *seem* to be unable to sew a straight *seam* today.

seaman—(n.) a sailor; an enlisted Navy man

semen—(n.) the fluid from the male reproductive organ

The fertility clinic tested the *seaman's semen*.

sear—(v.) to char or burn; to make callous

seer—(n.) a prophet; one who observes

sere—(adj.) dry, withered

A *seer* could *sear* the hopes of his followers leaving them with visions of a *sere* world to come.

seas—(n.) bodies of water; the waves

sees—(v.) looks; views; visits; learns

seize—(v.) to grab; to take control; to bind

In this painting, the viewer *sees* Lord Nelson's final attempt to *seize* control of the *seas*.

sects—(n.) groups of specific religious faiths

sex—(n.) gender

Most *sects* do not discriminate on the basis of *sex*.

seed—*see* cede

seeder—*see* cedar

seen—*see* scene

sell—*see* cell

seller—*see* cellar

sensor—*see* censer

sent—*see* cent

serf—(*n.*) a slave to a landowner

surf—(*v.*) to ride on the crest of a wave; (*n.*) breaking waves

In feudal times, a *serf* had to serve the lord of the castle.
The *surf* crashed against the rocky shore.

serge—(*v.*) to finish the edge of cloth; (*n.*) a fabric

surge—(*n.*) a large wave; a sudden increase in intensity;
(*v.*) to increase suddenly

His suit was made of brown *serge*.
Caught in the *surge*, the small craft capsized.

serial—*see* cereal

series—*see* Ceres

session—*see* cession

sew—(*v.*) to stitch; to mend; to make

so—(*adv.*) very; (*conj.*) for that reason; then; in order that

sow—(*v.*) to scatter seeds

She likes to *sew* her own clothes, *so* her wardrobe is unique.
Sow radishes every few weeks for a continuous crop.

shear—(*v.*) to clip; to trim

sheer—(*adj.*) extremely steep; very thin; total; (*v.*) to turn
aside; to swerve; (*adv.*) completely; utterly

It's *sheer* nonsense to think that a child could *shear* a tall
hedge.

sheik (sheikh)—see chic

shoe—(n.) a foot covering; a horseshoe; (v.) to apply shoes on a horse

shoo—(v.) to drive away; (interj.) begone!

As he labored to *shoe* the mare, he had to *shoo* the horseflies away.

shofar—see chauffeur

shone—(v.) glowed; stood out

shown—(v.) did show; exhibited

Her face *shone* with delight when she learned that her work would be *shown* at the gallery.

shoot—see chute

sic—(v.) to cause to attack

[sic]—(adv.) so; thus; indicating a misspelling or misuse

sick—(adj.) ill; very disturbed; disgusted; impaired

Only a *sick* mind would think to *sic* a dog on an innocent person.

side—(n.) the edge or margin; either half; a position;

(v.) to support; (adj.) at one side

sighed—(v.) did sigh; breathed deeply and audibly

He *sighed* when he saw that one *side* of the pancake was burnt.

sighs—(n.) deep loud breaths

size—(n.) the measurement, bulk, dimension; (v.) to stiffen

There were *sighs* of envy as the models paraded in *size* six bathing suits.

sight—*see cite*

sign—(*n.*) a signal; an indication; (*v.*) to affix one's name;
to communicate

sine—(*n.*) a fundamental function in trigonometry

She gave a *sign* that she knew how to compute the *sine*.

signet—*see cygnet*

slay—(*v.*) to murder or kill; to destroy

sleigh—(*n.*) a vehicle on runners

They uncovered a plot to *slay* their leader.

A *sleigh* glides over hard-packed snow.

sleight—(*n.*) skill with tricks

slight—(*adj.*) thin, small, light; (*v.*) to neglect or snub

The magician achieved his *sleight* of hand with a *slight* twist of his wrist.

slew—(*v.*) past of slay; (*n.*) a large number

slough—(*n.*) a marshy pool of water

slue—(*v.*) to turn; to rotate

A *slew* of tree frogs live by the *slough* near my house.

A sail with roller rigging should *slue* easily.

soar—(*v.*) to rise high; to fly like a bird

sore—(*adj.*) painful; annoyed

Ignoring his *sore* ankle, the skater began to *soar* across the ice.

soared—(*v.*) flew like a bird; rose high

sword—(*n.*) a weapon with a long, sharp blade

The applause *soared* as the performers took their final bow.

He drew his *sword* in defiance.



sole—(*n.*) the bottom of a foot or shoe; a fish; (*adj.*) one and only

soul—(*n.*) the spirit; the vital part; a person

She was his *sole* survivor and inherited everything.

He was remembered as a merry, old *soul*.

soled—(*v.*) supplied the shoe's bottom; (*adj.*) of the sole

sold—(*v.*) did sell

The store *sold* thick-*soled* boots for climbing.

some—(*adv.*) about; a bit; (*adj.*) several; any; (*pron.*) a few

sum—(*n.*) the total

Some, but not all, of the math students arrived at the same *sum*.

son—(*n.*) a male offspring

sun—(*n.*) the bright center of the solar system

The *sun* came from behind a cloud as his *son* walked toward him.

spade—(*n.*) a tool for digging

spayed—(*v.*) neutered an animal

She turned the earth with a *spade*.
We *spayed* our adopted cat.

staid—(*adj.*) proper; sober; sedate

stayed—(*v.*) remained; propped up; stopped the action of a court

Impressed by the *staid* atmosphere in the museum, the children *stayed* quietly together.

stairs—(*n.*) steps

stares—(*n.*) fixed looks

Ignoring the *stares* of the crowd, the eager fan ran up the *stairs* to greet her idol.

stake—(*n.*) a pointed post; a wager; a share; (*v.*) to gamble; to mark

steak—(*n.*) a slice of meat or fish

They cooked the *steak* by spearing it with a *stake* they had cut from a tree.

stationary—(*adj.*) motionless; fixed

stationery—(*n.*) writing paper

A *stationary* bike is one way to exercise.
Her *stationery* was monogrammed with her initials.

steal—(v.) to rob; to smuggle; to move or act secretly

steel—(n.) a hard metal

The thieves were able to open a *steel* safe and *steal* the contents.

step—(n.) a stair; a single movement; a short distance; a level or degree; (v.) to walk a short distance

steppe—(n.) a broad, treeless plain

Step to the window of the train and see a vast, bare *steppe* roll by.

stile—(n.) a set of steps over a fence

style—(n.) a manner; the fashion; characteristics;
(v.) to design

The *stile* was built in a rustic *style* with rough-hewn logs as steps.

straight—(adj.) even; direct; honest; in order; (adv.) virtuously; honestly

strait—(n.) a narrow waterway between two large bodies of water

We made a *straight* passage through the *strait* between the ocean and the sea.

straightened—(v.) made orderly; improved

straitened—(v.) limited; restricted due to financial difficulties

We felt relief after our *straitened* circumstances *straightened* out.

succor—(*n.*) aid; (*v.*) to help

sucker—(*n.*) a lollipop; a victim; the shoot of a plant; a small fish

The church tries to provide *succor* for the poor and homeless.
The bank teller offered a *sucker* to the customer's child.

suede—(*n.*) a soft, napped finish for cloth or leather

swayed—(*v.*) moved; influenced

The quality of the *suede* in the coat *swayed* her to make the big purchase.

suite—(*n.*) connected rooms; a set of furniture

sweet—(*adj.*) sugary; pleasing; amiable; fresh; beloved; fragrant

She sprayed a *sweet* air freshener throughout the *suite* of rooms.

summary—(*n.*) a brief outline; (*adj.*) direct; prompt; often impatient

summery—(*adj.*) of, like, or appropriate for summer

He wrote a *summary* of the chapter.
Her floral dress was light and *summery*.

sundae—(*n.*) an ice cream dessert; a topping

Sunday—(*n.*) a day of the week following Saturday

On each *Sunday*, after the movie, we were treated to a *sundae*.

symbol—*see* cymbal



tacked—(v.) changed course; stitched loosely; pinned

tact—(n.) a keen sense and skill in what to do or say;
diplomacy

Using great *tact*, he *tacked* on an addition to the agreement.

tacks—(n.) small nails; (v.) pins; changes course; stitches
loosely

tax—(n.) a payment; a burden; (v.) to levy

Using four *tacks*, she posted a notice about the new *tax*.

tail—(n.) the hind end; a streaming from behind; (v.) to follow

tale—(n.) a story; a lie

The ancient *tale* told how the peacock got its magnificent *tail*.

taper—(n.) a thin candle; a gradual decrease; (v.) to lessen;
to become smaller

tapir—(n.) a large, hoglike animal

The snout of the *tapir* has a slight *taper* toward the end.

taro—(n.) a stemless, tropical plant with broad leaves

tarot—(n.) cards for telling fortunes

Poi, a staple of early Hawaiians, is made from *taro* root.

A *tarot* deck has 22 cards.

tarry—(v.) to linger or loiter; to wait

terry—(n.) a looped cotton fabric

She asked me to *tarry* while she dried herself with a *terry* cloth towel.

taught—(v.) was educated; did teach

taut—(adj.) tightly stretched; strained; in good condition; tidy; trim

Trainees in the Navy are *taught* to keep a *taut* ship.

taupe—(n.) a moderately dark brownish gray

tope—(v.) to drink liquor habitually and to excess;
(n.) a small shark

The drunkard in the *taupe*-colored shirt began to *tope* at noon.

tea—(n.) a drink; an afternoon party

tee—(n.) a small golf peg; the place to start playing a hole on the golf course; a short-sleeved knitted shirt

From the first *tee*, she could see her friends having *tea* on the club porch.

team—(n.) two or more horses; a group working or playing together

teem—(v.) to abound or swarm; to pour into

The stands *teem* with loyal fans when the home *team* plays.

tear—(n.) a salty drop from the eye

tier—(n.) a row of seats; a level or layer

Sitting in the second *tier*, she shed a *tear* for the heroine.

teas—(*n.*) drinks made from soaking leaves from plants

tease—(*v.*) to mock; to torment

They imported exotic *teas* from Ceylon.

Her brother liked to *tease* her.

tens—(*n.*) multiples of ten

tends—(*v.*) takes care of; inclines toward

A beginning math student *tends* to confuse *tens* and ones.

tense—(*adj.*) strained; feeling or showing tension;

(*n.*) the time of a verb

tents—(*n.*) shelters made of canvas

The trip left them tired and *tense* until they settled in their *tents*.

tern—(*n.*) a gull-like seabird

turn—(*v.*) to rotate; to wrench; to move around; to change;

(*n.*) a chance

Watch the graceful *tern* wheel and *turn* above the waves!

their—(*pron.*) belonging to them

there—(*adv.*) in or at that place

they're—(*contr.*) they are; they were

They're hoping that *their* flight will arrive *there* in time to make connections.

threw—(*v.*) tossed; upset; sent rapidly

through—(*adv.*) from end to end; (*adj.*) finished; (*prep.*) past; beyond

Despite injuries, she got *through* the game and *threw* 20 baskets.



Napoleon was **thrown** off his **throne** after losing support in France.

throes—(n.) spasms of pain; struggles; agony

throws—(v.) pitches; sends rapidly

Even in the *throes* of pain, she *throws* very accurately.

throne—(n.) a ruler's chair; a king's power

thrown—(v.) have, has, or was pitched

Napoleon was *thrown* off his *throne* after losing support in France.

thyme—(n.) a minty herb

time—(n.) a measure of duration; every moment; past, present, and future; a set period

Late summer is the *time* to freeze or dry sprigs of *thyme*.

tic—(*n.*) a spasm; twitches

tick—(*n.*) a small blood-sucking insect; a clicking sound

A facial *tic* can be annoying.

The deer *tick* carries Lyme disease.

tide—(*n.*) the rise and fall of the seas; a trend; (*v.*) to flow or carry

tied—(*v.*) bound; fastened

The rising *tide* of opposition left him *tied* to an unpopular cause.

tigress—(*n.*) a female tiger

Tigris—(*n.*) a river in Asia

The *tigress* was ferried across the *Tigris* to her new home in the zoo.

tilde—(*n.*) a diacritical mark used in Spanish and Portuguese

tilled—(*v.*) plowed; cultivated; labored

The *tilde* indicates a nasal sound for pronouncing the word.

They *tilled* the fields before planting them.

to—(*adv.*) forward; (*prep.*) because; until; along with; so as to reach; on; at; into; toward

too—(*adv.*) more than enough; also; very

two—(*adj.*)(*n.*) one more than one

It may not be *too* wise *to* visit relatives with *two* sick children.

toad—(*n.*) an amphibious animal

toed—(*adj.*) having toes; (*v.*) stood; walked; kicked

towed—(*v.*) pulled; hauled; dragged

A fat *toad* hopped across the road.

The *two-toed* sloth is slow moving.

My car was *towed* to the garage.

toe—(*n.*) a digit on the foot; the front of a shoe or sock;
(*v.*) to touch, kick or strike

tow—(*v.*) to haul or drag; (*n.*) something dragged; fiber of flax, hemp, or jute; a head of pale, yellow hair

He stuck his *toe* in the pool to test the water temperature.
They had to *tow* their lively children away from the pool.

told—(*v.*) informed; said

tolled—(*v.*) rang slowly

We were *told* that the bell *tolled* on the hour from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily.

tool—(*n.*) a handheld instrument; a means of accomplishing a purpose; a person manipulated by another for a purpose

tulle—(*n.*) a netlike fabric

The *tool* of her success was the creative way she used *tulle* in her dress designs.

tort—(*n.*) a wrongful act resulting in injury to another's property or reputation

torte—(*n.*) a rich cake made with eggs and ground nuts

The *tort* for which the chef was awarded damages occurred when his *torte* recipes were stolen.

tortuous—(*adj.*) winding and twisted

torturous—(*adj.*) causing pain and torture

Concentrating on the *tortuous* mountain road became *torturous* after six hours of driving.

tracked—(*v.*) followed; traced

tract—(*n.*) a system of body parts; a stretch of land;
a political paper

The owners of the *tract* were *tracked* through records in the town hall.

troop—(n.) a unit of scouts or soldiers; (v.) to walk together

troupe—(n.) a group of singers or actors; (v.) to travel as a group

Troop Three awarded badges at their meeting yesterday.

A *troupe* from the city will sing *La Boheme* on Saturday.

trussed—(v.) tied up; supported

trust—(n.) confidence; hope; faith; care; custody; a monopoly; property held for a beneficiary

The turkey was stuffed and *trussed*, then roasted in a moderate oven.

She occupies a position of *trust* in the firm.

tucks—(n.) small pleats; (v.) covers snugly; fits securely

tux—(n.) (*informal*) a tuxedo, semiformal evening dress for a man

The shirt for a *tux* usually has *tucks* on the front.



undo—(v.) to untie; to do away with; to ruin

undue—(adj.) too much; improper

You can't *undo* the result of applying *undue* pressure on a big balloon.

use—see ewes

urn—see earn



vain—(*adj.*) proud; conceited; worthless; futile

vane—(*n.*) a wind direction indicator; the blade of a turbine or windmill

vein—(*n.*) a blood vessel; a mineral deposit; the rib of a leaf or an animal's wing

Their *vain* efforts to impress us were ludicrous.

The weather *vane* was mounted on the barn.

The tests revealed a rich *vein* of iron ore.

valance—(*n.*) a window treatment

valence—(*n.*) a number accompanying each chemical element

The *valance* was covered with the drapery fabric.

A *valence* is the number of binding sites on a molecule.

vale—(*n.*) a valley; earthly life; this world

veil—(*n.*) a light fabric cover; (*v.*) to hide or conceal

The *vale* surrounding the river was hidden in a *veil* of mist.

vary—(*v.*) to change; to alter; to make different

very—(*adv.*) extremely; truly; really

A *very* skilled tennis player will *vary* his serve.

venous—(*adj.*) having or composed of a vein or veins

Venus—(*n.*) an ancient goddess; a beautiful woman;
the second planet from the sun

Venous blood is oxygen-poor.

The Romans called Aphrodite *Venus*.

verses—(*n.*) the plural of verse

versus—(*prep.*) against; as compared to

Her *verses* are inspired, *versus* all others we read today.

vial—(*n.*) a small glass bottle

vile—(*adj.*) wicked; disgusting

viol—(*n.*) any of several stringed instruments played with a
bow

The *vial* of poison was an important clue in the *vile* crime.

She plays the bass *viol* exceedingly well.

vice—(*n.*) an evil habit or conduct; a fault or failing

visc (vice)—(*n.*) a device that holds firmly

His *vice* holds him like a *visc* from which he's unable to escape.

villain—(*n.*) a scoundrel; a criminal; an evildoer

villein—(*n.*) a serf who had the privileges of a freedman

A feudal lord was a *villain* if he ignored the rights of a *villein*.



wade—(v.) to walk through water; to proceed with difficulty
weighed—(v.) measured the weight; chose carefully; evaluated

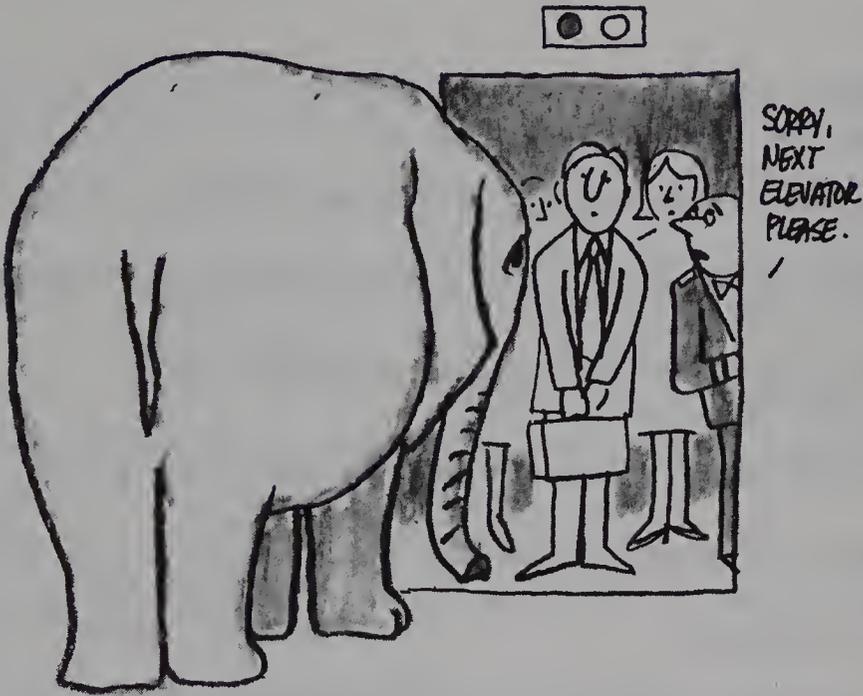
Before they began to *wade* across the stream, they *weighed* their chances of slipping on the rocks.

wail—(v.) to make a loud, long cry of grief or pain;
(n.) a mournful cry

whale—(n.) a large sea mammal

The dog gave a plaintive *wail* when it discovered the beached *whale*.





Because of his **weight** the elephant had to **wait** for the next elevator.

waist—(n.) a part of the body; a vest

waste—(v.) to ruin; to squander; to wear away; to dwindle;
(n.) decay; neglect; refuse; left over

His *waist* measures 36 inches.

We should try not to *waste* energy.

wait—(v.) to be ready; to stay for; to remain; to serve food;
to postpone or delay

weight—(n.) the amount of heaviness or importance; a heavy
object

I can't *wait* until I lose some *weight*.

waive—(v.) to excuse, give up, defer

wave—(v.) to move back and forth; (n.) an upsurge; an ocean
swell

They hoped the school would *waive* some requirements for
registration.

With a *wave* of his hand, the registrar dismissed them.

Wales—(*n.*) a peninsula of Great Britain

whales—(*n.*) large sea mammals

Whales are seldom sighted off the coast of *Wales*.

want—(*v.*) to wish for; to feel a need or desire for; to require;
(*n.*) the need

wont—(*adj.*) accustomed; (*n.*) usual practice, habit;
(*v.*) accustom

I would not *want* to marry one who's *wont* to rise at dawn.

wares—(*n.*) merchandise for sale; pottery

wears—(*v.*) on the body; bears evidence of use; holds up;
displays

The way she *wears* her colorful *wares* attracts buyers to her booth.

warn—(*v.*) to caution; to tell of coming danger

worn—(*v.*) used as clothing; shows use; tired

An unusual noise may *warn* you that your brake pads are *worn* thin.

way—(*n.*) the road, path, course, method

weigh—(*v.*) to measure heaviness; to evaluate

We're told the *way* to *weigh* less is to eat less and exercise more.

we—(*pron.*) persons speaking or writing

wee—(*adj.*) tiny; very early

We returned from the party in the *wee* hours of morning.

weak—(*adj.*) lacking strength; feeble

week—(*n.*) seven days in a row

They had a *weak* excuse for being a *week* late with their rent.

wear—(v.) to have on; to show; to impair by use; to irritate
where—(adv.) in, at, or from what place

Where would one *wear* a top hat and tails?

weather—(n.) conditions of temperature, wind, and humidity;
 (v.) to survive

whether—(conj.) if it be the case; in case; in either case

The *weather* will determine *whether* or not we ski this weekend.

weave—(v.) to make by interlacing; to twist or spin;
 (n.) the texture

we've—(contr.) we have

We've come to watch you *weave* at your loom.

we'd—(contr.) we had; we would

weed—(n.) a plant that grows wild; (v.) to remove weeds

We'd pulled every *weed* from the garden before the rain started.

we'll—(contr.) we will; we shall

wheel—(n.) a round, turning device; (v.) to turn or move by
 way of wheels

With a good driver at the *wheel*, *we'll* get there safely.

whet—(v.) to sharpen

wet—(adj.) moistened, covered, or soaked with water

The *wet* weather did little to *whet* our appetite for a picnic.

which—(pron.) what one; that one

witch—(n.) a sorceress; an ugly, old woman

The house in *which* the young *witch* lived was full of bats and mice.

while—(*conj.*) during a time; although; (*n.*) a period of time;
(*v.*) to spend time

wile—(*n.*) a trick to fool, trap, or entice; (*v.*) to entice or lure

While TV may *wile* you away from study, music may help you attend.

whine—(*v.*) to complain; (*n.*) a high-pitched sound

wine—(*n.*) a drink made from fermented grape juice

The puppy began to *whine* as soon as we left the room.
She poured the *wine* into long-stemmed glasses.

whole—*see* hole

wholly—*see* holy



When we left the room, the dog began to **whine**.

whoop—*see* hoop

who's—(*contr.*) who is; who has

whose—(*pron.*) belonging to who or which

Who's going to listen to someone *whose* honesty is questionable?

wind—(*v.*) to change direction; to take a bending course;
to coil or twine

wined—(*v.*) drank or served wine

After an evening in which they were generously *wined*, they decided to *wind* their way home.

won—*see* one

wood—(*n.*) lumber; timber

would—(*v.*) is, are, or was willing

We *would* like to have a big supply of *wood* cut before winter comes.

wrap—*see* rap

wrapped—*see* rapped

wreak—*see* reek

wrest—*see* rest

wretch—*see* retch

wright—see right

wring—see ring

write—see right

wrote—see rote

wrung—see rung

wry—see rye



Our neighbor planted a hedge of yews.



yew—*see* ewe

yews—*see* use

yoke—(*n.*) a wooden harness for oxen; bondage; (*v.*) to join together; to harness

yolk—(*n.*) the yellow part of an egg

The peasants revolted and threw off the *yoke* of serfdom.
The egg I broke has a double *yolk*.

you—*see* ewe

you'll—(*contr.*) you will; you shall

yule—(*n.*) Christmas; the season of Christmas

You'll be asked to attend many parties during the *Yuletide*.

your—(*pron.*) belonging to or done by you

you're—(*contr.*) you are

If *you're* able, *your* friends all hope you will join them.

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A Dictionary of HOMOPHONES

Leslie Presson



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