Homonyms, Homographs, and Homophones

**Homonyms:** Words which have the same spelling and same pronunciation, but different meanings.

**Directions:** Choose (a) or (b)

**Example:** I hope you are not lying _a_ to me. My books are _b_ on the table.

(a) telling a lie
(b) being in a horizontal position

1. The kids are going to watch _b_ TV tonight. What time is it? I have to set my watch _a_.
   (a) small clock worn on the wrist
   (b) look at

2. Which page _a_ is the homework on? Please page _b_ the doctor if you need help.
   (a) one sheet of paper
   (b) to call someone on an electronic pager

3. Let’s play _a_ soccer after school. The author wrote a new play _b_.
   (a) participate in a sport
   (b) theater piece

4. Ouch! The mosquito bit _b_ me! I’ll have a little bit _a_ of sugar in my tea.
   (a) a tiny amount
   (b) past tense of bite

5. My rabbits are in a pen _b_ outside. Please sign this form with a black pen _a_.
   (a) a writing instrument which uses ink
   (b) an enclosed area

**Homographs:** Words which have the same spelling, but different pronunciations and meanings.

**Directions:** Choose (a) or (b)

**Example:** The wind _a_ is blowing hard. I have to wind _b_ my clock.

(a) moving air (rhymes with pinned)
(b) turn the stem (rhymes with find)

1. The singer made a low bow _b_ to the audience. Maria placed a red bow _a_ on the birthday gift.
   (a) decorative ribbon (rhymes with so)
   (b) bend at the waist (rhymes with how)

2. All the students are present _a_ today. The boss will present _b_ the award at 10:00.
   (a) here (rhymes with pleasant)
   (b) give (rhymes with resent)

3. Please close _b_ the door. The boy sat close _a_ to his uncle.
   (a) near (rhymes with dose)
   (b) shut (rhymes with toes)
4. The rope was wound __ around his ankles.
   The soldier received a wound __ in the battle.
   (a) tied around (rhymes with pound)
   (b) an injury (rhymes with moon)

5. I don’t know if I will live __ or die.
   Last night I saw the band play live __ in concert.
   (a) to have life (rhymes with give)
   (b) in real time performance (rhymes with hive)

Homophones: Words which have the same pronunciation, but different spelling and different meanings.

Directions: Choose the correct word.

Example: Please try not to (waste, waist) paper.

1. Can I go to the party (to, too, two)?
2. This is my favorite (pare, pair, pear) of jeans.
3. I (sent, scent, cent) a letter to my aunt in Vietnam.
4. The children got (bored, board) during the lecture.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez like to work in (there, they’re, their) garden.
6. Alec is going to (wear, ware) his work boots today.
7. Do you think it is going to (rein, rain, reign) this afternoon?
8. I saw a restaurant just off the (rode, road) about a mile back.
9. David’s brother is in a (band, banned) which plays Russian music.
10. Juana wants her socks because her (tows, toes) are cold.
11. The teacher walked down the (aisle, isle) between the rows of desks.
12. Hadil has a (pane, pain) in her shoulder.
13. The school (principal, principle) spoke to a group of parents.
14. The clerk wants to (sell, cell) as many TVs as possible.
15. I don’t want to talk about the (passed, past) anymore.
16. Nobody (knows, nose) what you are thinking.
17. I have (for, four, fore) dollars in my pocket.
18. I need to take a (break, brake) from this exercise!
19. Humans have hands. Animals have (paws, pause).
20. (He’ll, Heel, Heal) be here in a few minutes.