

A In English there are quite a few pairs or groups of words having similar sounds but different meanings and spellings. Such words are called **homophones**. We should be careful while using them.

B Given below is a list of such pairs explained with the help of sentences:

1. **Allowed** — The teacher allowed me to go home a little early.  
**Aloud** — Please read this poem aloud.
2. **Angel** — An angel appeared to the child in a dream.  
**Angle** — A triangle can have only one right angle.
3. **Berth** — *a bed on a train or a boat*: We cancelled the trip because we weren't getting a berth.  
**Birth** — You must write your date of birth correctly.
4. **Brake** — The driver applied the brakes in time and the bus came to a halt.  
**Break** — This vase is made of glass. If it falls, it will immediately break.
5. **Cell** — This transistor works on two pencil cells.  
**Sell** — We want to sell our old furniture.
6. **Dairy** — Butter and cream are dairy products.  
**Diary** — Writing a diary before going to sleep is a good habit.
7. **Died** — His father died at the age of eighty.  
**Dyed** — She dyed her hair dark brown.
8. **Dose** — (of medicine): Just one dose of this medicine cured me of my headache.  
**Doze** — *light sleep*: If I can doze for a few minutes, I will again become fresh.
9. **Floor** — We want to cover the floor with a carpet.  
**Flour** — *Chapatis* are usually made of wheat flour.
10. **Hair** — Grey hair is thought to be a sign of wisdom.  
**Hare** — The hare could run very fast but he was lazy.

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11. **Heal** — The wound took a long time to heal.  
**Heel** — He fell on a piece of broken glass and got a cut on the heel.
12. **Loose** — Children should wear loose clothes.  
**Lose** — If you don't keep your things carefully, you will lose them.
13. **Pain** — She overate and got pain in the stomach.  
**Pane** — The ball hit the windowpane and broke it.
14. **Pair** — I have bought a new pair of shoes.  
**Pare** — You must pare your nails regularly.
15. **Peace** — A country can progress only during peace time.  
**Piece** — I need a piece of rope to tie this bundle.
16. **Pray** — I pray to God for your good health.  
**Prey** — The tiger pounced on its prey.
17. **Principal** — My mother went to the school to meet the Principal.  
**Principle** — *a basic rule*: Gandhiji always followed noble principles.
18. **Quiet** — This child cannot keep quiet even for two minutes.  
**Quite** — My father was quite satisfied with my result.
19. **Root** — A plant gets water through its roots.  
**Route** — Trains running on this route are often late.
20. **Stair** — The man slipped while climbing the stairs.  
**Stare** — It is a bad habit to stare at anyone.
21. **Storey** — My room is on the upper storey of the house.  
**Story** — My grandmother told me a very interesting story.
22. **Their** — *from 'they'*: Their house is small but comfortable.  
**There** — *opposite of 'here'*: We went there in a group.
23. **Wait** — Don't wait for me for more than ten minutes.  
**Weight** — What is the weight of this bag of cement?
24. **Waist** — The water in the river soon rose above his waist.  
**Waste** — Don't waste money; spend it carefully.
25. **Weather** — The weather has suddenly turned cold.  
**Whether** — I want to know whether my answer was correct.