

# COMMONLY CONFUSED WORDS: Homonyms

Homonyms (or sometimes called homophones) are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings.

## Most commonly confused homonyms:

**its** possessive of *it*  
**it's** contraction of *it is*

**to** toward  
**too** also, more than sufficient  
**two** the number

**no** negative  
**know** to be certain

**weather** atmospheric conditions  
**whether** in either case

**than** as compared with  
**then** at that time, next

**which** one of a group  
**witch** female sorcerer

**there** in that place  
**their** possessive of *they*  
**they're** contraction of *they are*

**your** possessive of *you*  
**you're** contraction of *you are*

## Additional commonly misspelled homonyms:

accept to receive  
except to leave out  
all ready prepared  
already by this time  
buy to purchase  
by next to, through  
elicit to draw out  
illicit illegal  
fair just, light complexion  
fare fee, meal  
hole opening  
whole entire, complete  
passed past tense of *to pass*  
past after, beyond, a time gone by  
peace absence of war  
piece part or portion  
threw past tense of *throw*  
through by means of, finished

affect to have an influence on  
effect result, to make happen  
brake stop, device for stopping  
break to smash, destroy  
cite quote, refer to  
sight vision, something seen  
site place, locale  
heard past tense of *to hear*  
herd group of animals  
loose not tight, unfastened  
lose misplace, fail to win  
patience forbearance, ability to wait  
patients those under medical care  
principal most important, school head  
principle fundamental truth or conviction  
whose possessive form of *who*  
who's contraction of *who is*

*This is only a partial list.*