

# HOMOPHONES: FUN BUT FRUSTRATING!

Homophones make possible many of our jokes, puns and word games, but they are a great frustration for spellers of English! A writer must recognize a homophone, then think about which meaning fits the sentence, and finally select and write the correct spelling. This is an especially difficult task for learners, and even many adults!

Although as many as 30% of “spelling” mistakes involve homophones, computerized spell-checkers often do not find these mistakes. Students must become competent in using the most common homophones. This is difficult for some, but good instruction and frequent review will lead to success. Students who have *mastered* a set of homophones will write them correctly most of the time in first drafts, and always find and correct them when editing.

This book was developed as an ancillary to the *Spelling Plus* program but will stand alone for use with any method of teaching spelling. It provides educators with resources and suggestions for teaching homophones, to be used as needed with individuals or an entire class. The proper use of these resources depends upon the professional judgment of the teacher, who must decide which sets of homophones should be introduced and when, based on the abilities and needs of his/her own students.

*Whether the weather's sunny,  
Whether it's cold or hot,  
Whether it's raining  
or snowing or blowing,  
It's the only weather we've got!  
So we just have to  
weather the weather  
Whether we like it or not!*