UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH WRITNG & READING CENTER

HOMOPHONES

-blue, blew-

Blue - the color

Anna bought a blue car.

Blew - past tense of blow

Yesterday the wind blew very hard.

-capital, capitol-

Capital - punishment by death; important; accumulated goods; a city serving as the seat of government

Providence is the capital of Rhode Island.

Capitol - a building in which the functions of government are carried out

The Rhode Island State Senate meets in the Capitol in Providence.

-for, four-

For - with the purpose of; intended to belong to

I saved those egg cartons for you.

Four - the number

Ed ate four slices of pizza.

-its, it's-

Its - belonging to it

The cat licked its paws.

It's - it is

It's raining outside.

-hear, here-

Hear - to perceive with your ears

Did you hear what mike said?

Here - in or at this place

We will meet here at two o'clock.

-hour, our-

Hour - sixty minutes

I will meet you downtown in one hour.

Our - indicates possession; possessive form of “we”

Smokey is our cat.

-made, maid-

Made - past tense of make

Harry made the best spaghetti and meatballs I ever tasted.

Maid - an unmarried woman or girl; a female servant

Diane works as a maid for the Garcia family.

-male, mail-

Male - boy or man

Joe is a male nurse.

Mail - letters, packages, or other postal matter

Cindy likes to receive mail every day.

-meet, meat-

Meet - to encounter; to join; some sporting events

Will he meet us at the swim meet?

Meat - animal flesh that you eat

Archie is a vegetarian: he eats no meat.

-new, knew-

New - the opposite of old

I will buy a new car.

Knew - past tense of know

Sheila knew you would be here today.

-no, know-

No - the opposite of yes

May said, "The answer to your question is ‘no.’"

Know - to be acquainted or familiar with.

May asked, "Do you know the answer to the question?"

-passed, past-

Passed - past tense of "to pass"

Marvin passed by me yesterday, but he didn't recognize me.

Past - time gone by

In the past, we did not fill out these forms.

-red, read-

Red - the color

Maria bought a red motorcycle.

Read - past tense of the verb "to read"

Yesterday Louisa read the entire book.

-sale, sail-

Sale - the act of selling

Mr. Smith was interested in the sale of the antiques.

Sail - part of a boat or ship, to travel on water in a ship

The wind shifted and filled the sail of our boat.

-see, sea-

See - to perceive with the eyes

I see that George is coming.

Sea - a large body of water, like an ocean

The Mediterranean Sea is between Africa and Europe.

-sew, so-

Sew - to fasten by stitching

Steve will sew the rip on the curtains.

So - in a manner or way; to a great extent; also

Jane worked hard, and so did Manny.

-son, sun-

Son - a male offspring

My son likes to play baseball.

Sun - the star around which the Earth revolves

The summer sun is very strong.

-tale, tail-

Tale - a story

The tale is about two sisters who did not get along.

Tail - the end of an animal's body

Our dog has a very short tail.

-there, their, they're-

There - in that place

I stood there.

Their - belonging to them

Jeff is their son.

They're - they are

They're going away for the weekend.

-to, too, two-

To - toward, until, also used before a verb infinitive as in "to sing"

Hiriam went to the barn to feed the pigs.

Too - more than enough, also

The basketball center is too short, and he's too slow too.

Two - the number

In two seconds I lost two teeth.

-weather, whether-

Weather - the condition of the atmosphere

If the weather is good, we will go rowing.

Whether - indicated a choice between one of two things.

I will go whether you come or not.

-which, witch-

Which - indicates a choice that must be made

Which way are you going?

Witch - a female with magical powers

Witches are associated with Halloween.

-whose, who's-

Whose - belonging to whom

Whose book is this?

Who's - who is

Who's going with me?

-write, right-

Write - use a pen or a pencil to draw words on a surface

Sally did not write to thank us for the gift.

Right - correct; the opposite of left

He got all the answers right and aced the test.

When you come to the corner, turn right.

-your, you're-

Your - belonging to you

Is that your cat?

You're - you are

John wanted to know if you're going.