**Focus Words PART ONE**

A **homophone** is a word that sounds like another word but has a different meaning and spelling. They are also called **homonyms.**

**A. Look up and write down the meaning of the following words.**

1. its:

2. it’s:

3. they’re

4. their

5. there

6. to

7. two

8. too

**B. Make your own sentences using the given word.**

1. its: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. it’s: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_

3. they’re: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. their: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. there: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. to: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. two: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. too: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_

**It's / Its**

**It's** This is short for 'it is' or 'it has'.

It's going to be a nice day. or I don't know whether it's arrived yet.

If you can replace the word by 'it is' or 'it has' and the sentence still makes sense, then use it's.

***Write a couple of sentences using it’s.***

1.

2.

**Its** This is used when something belongs to or is associated with something.

The lorry spilled its load onto the road. or Life has its ups and downs.

***Write a couple of sentences using its.***

1.

2.

**Exercise:** Use the correct form of it’s or its.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ a pity you can't be there.

2. The car lost \_\_\_\_\_\_ front wheel.

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ been a long time.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ too big to go through the door.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ too late to stop now.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_ been a difficult week.

7. Do you know where \_\_\_\_\_\_ come from ?

8. My dog has injured \_\_\_\_\_\_ front leg.

9. I won't pretend that \_\_\_\_\_\_ easy.

10. This government doesn't know what \_\_\_\_\_\_ doing.

11. The government has lost \_\_\_\_\_\_ way.

12. The government must change \_\_\_\_\_\_ policy on taxation.

13. I don't think \_\_\_\_\_\_ a good idea.

14. I don't know what \_\_\_\_\_\_ effect will be.

15. \_\_\_\_\_\_ a revolutionary new product.

16. The company launched \_\_\_\_\_\_ revolutionary new product.

17. I'm not sure whether \_\_\_\_\_\_ been paid for.

18. We watched the bird building \_\_\_\_\_\_ nest.

19. The Titanic sank on \_\_\_\_\_\_ maiden voyage.

20. \_\_\_\_\_\_ a long way to Tipperary.

**THERE / THEIR / THEY’RE**

**There -this word talks about a place**

Ex. The sign says to go over *there*.

**Their -describes something belonging to more than one person**

Ex. The girls held *their* diplomas tightly.

**They’re -a contraction of the words “they” and “are”**

Ex. *They are* skating in a straight line.

*They’re* skating in a straight line.

**Exercises:** Fill in the correct word for each blank.

1. Michael Jordan and Shaquille O’Neal are best known for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ basketball careers.

2. Sharonda and Yasheeka always sit over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Reese and Monte wonder where they have left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ notebooks.

4. My students know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ very smart.

5. We will buy our tickets for the movie when we get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Ms. Bond and Ms. Smith really care about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ students.

7. My parents think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lucky to have such a smart daughter.

8. The children shook the snow from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ boots before they came inside.

9. The keys are on that table right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. The DJs on the radio say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happy to work so early in the morning.

11. Carey and Quanta always do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ assignments on time.

12. Put your backpacks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the floor.

13. My mother told me to put the newspaper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

14. My dogs always beg for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food in the morning.

15. I don’t understand dogs. It seems like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always happy.

**TWO / TO / TOO**

**Two is a number.** She counted, "One, two, three."   
    
**Too is an adverb that can mean also.** He wanted to go too.   
    
**Too is an adverb that can mean more than enough.**

This is too much for me!

**To plus a noun or noun phrase is a preposition.**

Take me to the ball game.

       I went to bed early that night.   
    
**To plus a verb is an infinitive.**

She wanted to go.

       He decided to run away.   
 

**Exercise:** Choose the correct two, too, or to for each of the blanks below.

    1. Many students read \_\_\_\_\_ quickly and \_\_\_\_\_ carelessly.    
     2. I was \_\_\_\_\_ scared \_\_\_\_\_ say a word to her!    
     3. I am going \_\_\_\_\_ the store now.    
     4. They are building \_\_\_\_\_ new houses on our block.    
     5. May I go \_\_\_\_\_?    
     6. Do you think it is \_\_\_\_\_ late \_\_\_\_\_ do that now?    
     7. I have \_\_\_\_\_ new shirts that I can't wait \_\_\_\_\_ wear.    
     8. My dental appointment lasted \_\_\_\_\_ hours and that was \_\_\_\_\_ long!    
     9. This room is \_\_\_\_\_ cold \_\_\_\_\_ stay in very much longer.    
   10. After I played racquetball for \_\_\_\_\_ hours, I was \_\_\_\_\_ tired \_\_\_\_\_ walk home.   
   11. It is not good \_\_\_\_\_ put \_\_\_\_\_ much salt on your food.    
   12. My next dental appointment is for tomorrow at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock.    
   13. I am not \_\_\_\_\_ excited about going \_\_\_\_\_ the dentist again.    
   14. My brother flew \_\_\_\_\_ Alabama earlier this week.    
   15. We have planted \_\_\_\_\_ rose bushes in pots on the patio.

**Two, to, and too**

As you know, the \_\_\_\_ little pigs, Curly and Wurly, pushed Flo out of the window and were sent \_\_\_\_ live with Uncle Oscar Meyer. If they had \_\_\_\_\_ do it again, these \_\_\_\_ little pigs might have made a different decision. You see, many rumors had circulated about him and the boys weren’t sure which ones were true. Whenever they had \_\_\_\_ clean the stable or feed the chickens, they were afraid that the \_\_\_\_of them would be put in a pen \_\_\_\_.

One day, Mama and Flo came two visit them. Flo showed off her new bracelet. She had gotten it with the extra allowance money that was left after the \_\_\_\_ boys were sent away. "I bought \_\_\_\_ new earring \_\_\_\_!" said Flo. "So what? I don’t have \_\_\_\_earrings because I only have one hole in my left ear, "replied Curly. "Me ­\_\_\_\_," said Wurly.

Before Mama and their sister left, the \_\_\_\_little pigs had something ­\_\_\_\_ show them. They had worked very hard \_\_\_\_impress Mama so that they could come back home and not live with Uncle Oscar Meyer. Wurly had made a dollhouse made out of sticks. He was very proud of his creation. Curly had made one \_\_\_\_. His was made of straw that he had found lying around the barn. Flo wasn’t impressed.

"I have a doll house made out of brick already. It has windows and doors \_\_\_\_. It also has \_\_\_\_lamps inside so that you can see better. What would I do with \_\_\_\_more? What a dumb idea!"

Mama said, "Flo, that’s not very nice. Just because they made \_\_\_\_more doesn’t mean that you can’t use them \_\_\_\_. What has happened \_\_\_\_your manners? I think maybe it is time \_\_\_\_let the \_\_\_\_boys come home. They have been punished enough. Boys, I’ll come back and pick you up next week." With that, Mama and Flo drove back \_\_\_\_the apartment.

When they got home, Flo pleaded her case. "Mama, they were mean \_\_\_\_me. They tried \_\_\_\_throw me out the window so they could get my allowance. Besides, I like having the \_\_\_\_extra allowances. They shouldn’t get \_\_\_\_have another chance. I think that the \_\_\_\_of them will have \_\_\_\_learn how \_\_\_\_share before we can all get along."

Mama replied, "Why Flo, I don’t think I have ever seen how selfish you can be. I love the \_\_\_\_boys \_\_\_\_. I don’t think I have \_\_\_\_wait; I’m going \_\_\_\_go back \_\_\_\_the farm and get those \_\_\_\_boys right now. You go \_\_\_\_your room and think about what I should do \_\_\_\_you \_\_\_\_." Mama rushed out the door \_\_\_\_get the boys from the farm.

As she was driving back, Curly told Wurly, "Flo will convince Mama \_\_\_\_leave us here. We’d better think of a plan \_\_\_\_keep Flo from changing her mind."

"I know, we can set up a trap \_\_\_\_catch Flo and make it look like an accident. Then we will have the apartment and her allowance \_\_\_\_."

"I like your idea, Curly. Let’s do it!" The \_\_\_\_boys went off \_\_\_\_set up the trap.

Mama arrived and asked where the boys were. "Oh, they’re over in the barn finishing their chores," replied Uncle Oscar Meyer.

"I’ll go get them," stated Mama.

The boys talked softly \_\_\_\_each other. "I heard the car, they’re coming. Quick, set up the trap."

As Mama walked in \_\_\_\_the dark barn Wurly yelled, "Now!" and Curly threw the lever. Unfortunately, his foot got caught up in the net and he was flung toward the sausage machine.

"Oh no, I’m coming \_\_\_\_get you!" shrieked his brother. Mama couldn’t see anything, but she heard shouts and screams.

"Where is that stupid light? I can’t believe that I have \_\_\_\_wander around in the dark out here \_\_\_\_". Just as Mama found the switch, the screams stopped. Mama looked all around the barn, but all she could find were \_\_\_\_big sausages next \_\_\_\_a machine that was turned on. "Oscar ought \_\_\_\_turn the machines off when he’s done with them," said Mama as she turned it off. "I wonder where those \_\_\_\_scamps have gone."

No one was ever able \_\_\_\_find the \_\_\_\_boys. Oscar found that he had extra sausages that winter and had Mama and Flo over for Christmas dinner to share the feast with him. The dinner was so good, that Oscar decided \_\_\_\_go into business and he made \_\_\_\_billion dollars in only \_\_\_\_years.