

Homonyms

A homonym is a word with the same pronunciation and spelling as another word, but with a different meaning.

The word "succeed" is one example of a homonym.

In the sentence, "My brother will succeed in business because he works hard," the word "succeed" means "to accomplish something."

In the sentence, "The vice president will succeed the president after his second term," the word "succeed" means "to follow."

Stress to students that the meaning of a homonym will be determined by its use, or context, in a sentence.

Provide students with a list of homonyms. Teachers can often suggest such lists from spelling books, or even textbooks. You can also find resource books at teacher supply stores.

Instruct students to look up each word in the dictionary and write down both definitions. If students create a chart similar to the one below, they can fold it horizontally into 3 sections, to quiz themselves on the different meanings.

Homonym: Appreciate

1st definition: to increase in value

2nd definition: to be thankful for; feel grateful

To test their knowledge at the end of the week, read each word aloud and ask them to write a synonym for both definitions. A synonym is a word that has a similar meaning.

For example:

Read the homonym, "appreciate."

Students should then write the synonyms 1. increase 2. grateful

Read the homonym, "tax."

Students should then write the synonyms 1. required payment 2. burden

Homophones

A homophone is a word with the same pronunciation as another, but with a different meaning and possibly a different spelling. For example, the words "dye" and "die" are homophones.

It may be helpful to develop a tutoring program that will increase the student's spelling and memorization skills. Offer the student some examples of homophones that are used everyday, such as "one" and "won." This may involve flash cards or "spelling bees" that include spelling words common to this grade level. Further, when using homophones in speech, stop to discuss how the word would be spelled in a specific context.