

## Glossary – homophone

Homophones are words with different spellings and different meanings but the same pronunciation. 'Knows' and 'nose' are homophones, for example - so are:

- 'reed' and 'read' (infinitive)
- 'red' and 'read' (past tense)
- 'key' and 'quay'
- 'I', 'eye' and 'aye'
- 'so', 'sew' and 'sow'
- 'pair' and 'pear'

and so on.

Some pairs of words are homophones in some accents but not others. In many non-rhotic accents, pairs of words such as 'stalk' and 'stork', 'caught' and 'court' are homophones, but in rhotic accents they aren't.

Pairs such as 'some' and 'sum', 'you' and 'ewe' are homophones when 'some' and 'you' are in their strong forms /sʌm/ and /ju:/, but not when they're reduced to the weak forms /səm/ and /jʊ/ or /jə/.