

THE LAZY EDITOR: “Fabulous—or Freaky?” • SKILL: Homophones

Conquer Those Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. It’s easy to get them mixed up. Here are definitions of some common homophones:

mite: 1. a tiny, spiderlike creature that lives on plants and animals; 2. a small person or thing; 3. a small amount of anything

might: 1. great ability, strength, or power; 2. a helping verb to express permission or possibility: *I asked if I might try some; We might go to the movies.*

there: 1. to, in, or at that place: *Let’s go back there.* 2. that place or point: *We’ll leave from there.* 3. a pronoun to introduce a sentence or clause: *There is someone at the door.*

they’re: a contraction of *they are*

their: belonging to or having to do with them: *They took their dog out.*

your: belonging to or having to do with you: *Your mom is calling you.*

you’re: a contraction of *you are*

wood: 1. the hard substance that forms the trunk and branches of a tree; 2. an area of dense trees

would: 1. expresses a probability in the past tense; 2. a helping verb to express (a) preference or willingness: *I would rather stay home;* (b) a repeated action in the past: *We would go to the pool every day;* (c) choice or possibility: *I would have bought that shirt if they had had it in my size;* (d) a request: *Would you please hold this for me?*

Directions: Circle the correct boldface word in each sentence below.

1. Keidi has a jewelry box made of three different kinds of **wood/would**.
2. Catherine was telling us that **you’re/your** coming to the party!
3. I can’t find my neon-yellow pajamas, but I know **their/there/they’re** here somewhere!
4. Sumo wrestlers push each other with all their **mite/might**.
5. Haskell and Brenda **wood/would** have built elaborate Lego structures all day if you had let them.
6. Isaiah was a **mite/might** disappointed that his friends all wanted to see the other movie.
7. **You’re/Your** taste in music is very similar to Loula’s.
8. I’m here, but I wish I were **their/there/they’re** with you.
9. “I **wood/would** have bought Patti a chocolate ice cream soda if she had wanted one,” said Steve.
10. Salmon travel miles and miles to get back to where they were born so they can lay **their/there/they’re** eggs.
11. Alexia panicked when she found a **mite/might** on her favorite basil plant.
12. “When is **you’re/your** birthday?” asked Julia.