Right spelling but wrong word

This exercise looks at words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. For example the words *to*, *too* and *two* all sound the same but they mean different things and are spelled differently.

By the end of this exercise you will:

- recognise some of the most familiar words with more than one spelling and meaning, and
- know which spelling is the right one to use.

The answers to the exercises are on the last page.
Choosing the right spelling

Choosing the right spelling when there is more than one way to spell a word can be confusing. For example the words *no* and *know* sound the same but each word has a different meaning. Knowing which spelling is the right one is important when it comes to having a clear meaning.

Have a look at the sentence below and underline the two words in this sentence that use the wrong spelling. It might help to say the sentence out loud.

To wrongs don’t make a write.

If you underlined the words *to* and *write*, well done. If you know the right spellings, write them here.

_____ wrongs don’t make a ______.

Check your answer on the last page.

Words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings are known as *homophones*. The word *homo* is Greek for *same* and *phone* is *sound* or *voice*. 
**Exercise 1 - Two different spellings**

Look at the words below. Can you think of another word that has the same sound but is spelled differently? The first one is done for you.

1. our / hour
2. their / _______
3. see / _______
4. knew / _______
5. right / _______
6. flour / _______

There are many examples and some even have three spellings and three different meanings. Try these.

**Exercise 2 - Three different spellings**

1. to / ________ / ________
2. pare / _______ / _______
3. by / _______ / _________
4. scent / ________ /________
5. seize / ________ / ________

**Look at the meaning**

When there is more than one way to spell a word it is important to look at the meaning of the word. For example the word close and clothes sound the same but mean different things. You have to know which spelling to use to get across the right meaning. Look at the example below and decide which of the two sentences uses the right word.

1. Close the door behind you
or

2. Clothes the door behind you.

If you guessed the first one then you are right. Now write a sentence with the word *clothes*.

_____________________________________

It’s a good idea to check the meaning in a dictionary to make sure you have the right word.

**Exercise 3 - Choose the right spelling**

First read each sentence to get the meaning. Put a line through the word that is not right and write the sentence again using the right word.

1. She was not *aloud/allowed* to drive the car.

_____________________________________

2. They had a *great/grate* time at the wedding.

_____________________________________

3. The plumber cut a *hole/whole* in the floor.

_____________________________________

4. The player didn’t *hear/here* the whistle.

_____________________________________

5. John had a bad *pane/pain* in his *tows/toes*.

_____________________________________
Exercise 4 - Match the word and the meaning

The words below sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. Draw a line to connect one of the words to one of the meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>altar</td>
<td>one of the 5 senses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blew</td>
<td>correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cell</td>
<td>an animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deer</td>
<td>opposite to war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>check</td>
<td>to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheque</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hear</td>
<td>colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pane</td>
<td>prisoners are kept here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peace</td>
<td>sore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piece</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>right</td>
<td>used in banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Add to your spelling list

Look back over the words in this exercise and write the words that you want to remember most in the boxes below. Then put each word in a sentence and check the dictionary to see if you used the right word to get across the meaning.

Words

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________
Answers

What are the right spellings

Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Exercise 1 - Two different spellings

1. our / hour
2. their / there
3. see/sea
4. knew/new
5. right/ write
6. flour / flower

Exercise 2 - Three different spellings

1. to / too / two
2. pare/ pair/ pear
3. by / buy / bye
4. scent / sent / cent
5. seize / sees / seas

Exercise 3 - Choose the right spelling

1. She was not allowed to drive the car.
2. They had a great time at the wedding.
3. The plumber cut a hole in the floor.
4. The player didn’t hear the whistle.
5. John had a bad pain in his toes.
Exercise 4 - Match the word and the meaning

1. alter = to change
2. blue = colour
3. cell = prisoners are kept here
4. deer = an animal
5. cheque = used in banking
6. hear = one of the five senses
7. pain = sore
8. peace = opposite to war
9. right = correct