

A to Z English

Grammar A to Z 5: Simple Homonyms

In this episode, Kevin and Jack remind you to be mindful of homonyms in writing.

there/their/they're

two/to/too

your/you're

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We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for future episodes.

Full Transcript

00:00:00 Kevin

Welcome to A-Z English grammar from A-Z. We're to help you with different random grammar points every week, so remember you can check our website for a transcript of this to help you follow along as well as links to our WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media so you can join in and practice the grammar. So what, what grammar?

00:00:20 Kevin

Shall we practice today, Jack?

00:00:23 Jack

I think today we should focus on something called homophones, and homophone is actually.

00:00:32 Jack

A word that that means, well **** means the same a.

00:00:36 Jack

Phone means sound and so in English there are a lot of sound.

00:00:41 Jack

We there are a lot of words that have the same sounds, but they have totally different meanings.

00:00:49 Kevin

Yeah, I mean every language has has homophones, of course, but there's there's some that are just very confusing.

00:00:55 Jack

Yeah, I think they're probably confusing for every second language learner.

00:00:59 Jack

Whenever you're trying to learn another language.

00:01:03 Jack

You get confused because you hear a word and you recognize it, but it's a different one.

00:01:06 Kevin

I think that.

00:01:08 Kevin

Yeah, and the the difficult thing with with English is because most homophones you can figure out which word it is in context, but like in Korean, for example, if there's a homophone, it's spelled the same way, but in English the homophones are often spelled differently, not always, but often spelled differently, and so it is a.

00:01:28 Kevin

Different word, but because English pronunciation is not friendly.

00:01:34 Kevin

Uh, they sound the same, even though they're spelled differently.

00:01:37 Jack

You have, there's one that's always made me.

00:01:39 Jack

Laugh bare naked.

00:01:42 Jack

It sounds like a a naked bear and.

00:01:45 Kevin

Yeah the A RE instead of BEAR.

00:01:49 Jack

Right, right, yeah?

00:01:52 Jack

Not a funny ones, you know.

00:01:52 Kevin

So I think the there's a couple that we were talking about that are really really common.

00:02:00 Kevin

And really, I think they're not too difficult to learn, but they're important for everyone to really think about here.

00:02:07 Kevin

And unfortunately, these things are all about spelling, and because we're just talking to you over, you know podcast here for everybody, listen.

00:02:16 Kevin

Thing you need.

00:02:17 Kevin

To to think about the spelling of these words.

00:02:19 Kevin

So these are more important when you're writing.

00:02:21 Kevin

I think than when you're speaking, because when you're speaking, the pronunciation is the same, so it.

00:02:26 Kevin

Doesn't matter, but.

00:02:27 Kevin

For writing, it is important.

00:02:30 Jack

Oh 100% yeah. It's all about writing, speaking a little bit because you want to use the word in the right context, but you know the thing that I I teach my students is this is.

00:02:39 Kevin

Right, right?

00:02:45 Jack

Uh, if the if the if we're going to, uh, you know, say something.

00:02:52 Jack

Bad about the English language.

00:02:54 Jack

I suppose this is one of those areas where there is no hard and fast rule for capturing the differences between.

00:03:05 Jack

You know a homophone and a homonym homonym is same sound.

00:03:12 Jack

Sorry, same spelling, and same sound.

00:03:15 Jack

Uh, in a homophone is a different spelling, and the same sound, and there you know there's no real rule that you can use other than just memorizing them.

00:03:28 Kevin

Yeah, but you need.

00:03:29 Kevin

To memorize it and you need to be conscious of these, let's go ahead and start with the first one I've got on the list here and this one just has two.

00:03:38 Kevin

There's a couple of of ones that have three different meanings, but this is we'll start with a short one.

00:03:43 Kevin

Your and your, which are the same pronunciation.

00:03:48 Kevin

Right, so we've got your this is your podcast. YOUR versus you're going to exercise today. YOU apostrophe RE.

00:03:59 Jack

And this one I'm actually rolling my eyes.

00:04:00 발표자

Right?

00:04:02 Jack

You can't see that because this is a podcast, but many, many, many native speakers make this mistake all the time.

00:04:11 Jack

So this is not if you make this mistake as a second language learner.

00:04:17 Jack

Don't be too hard on yourself because this is something that I I read in documents all the time and it's kind of a pet peeve of mine because what is your mean? YOUR Kevin?

00:04:32 Kevin

It's possessive, right?

00:04:34 Kevin

It's your thing, your whatever, whatever it is, your microphone, your hat, your house, you know things like that, whatever it is, it's possessive.

00:04:41 Jack

Right?

00:04:44 Jack

This is my car that is your car.

00:04:47 Jack

This is my pencil.

00:04:48 Kevin

Right and then the other one? The why are you apostrophe? RE is super easy because it's just it's you R.

00:04:49Jack

It is your pencil.

00:04:54Kevin

Right, yeah, and again I think with most of these I think most people listening will know these differences, but you really need to be careful when you're spelling it when you're writing it, because when you make that mistake then you're suddenly saying you know, like YOUR.

00:05:14Kevin

Going to the store, you're going to the store, which is in a you know spoken.

00:05:21Kevin

It's fine because it does.

00:05:22Kevin

Matter, but when you're spelling it, you're going to the store.

00:05:25Kevin

I don't have a going to the store and going to the.

00:05:28Kevin

Store isn't a thing.

00:05:28Kevin

I I can't have that and so it changes.

00:05:31Kevin

The meaning of the sentence yeah.

00:05:32Jack

Or you can just you know what what we call.

00:05:36Jack

Words when we put them together like you and R becomes your is what we call a contraction and a contraction is actually 2 words, but just for the sake of.

00:05:50Jack

Speed we often put them together and make them into one word, so if you were to say.

00:05:56Kevin

Yep, and contractions are great.

00:05:59Jack

Yeah, you're.

00:06:02Jack

You know you you are going to.

00:06:07Jack

Uh, you your neighborhood store, so you're going to your neighborhood store if you use the the contraction for both of those.

00:06:18 Jack

If we just separate them, the sentence becomes very strange.

00:06:23 Jack

You are going to.

00:06:25 Jack

You are store.

00:06:27 Kevin

Yeah, so you gotta be really careful you have to be really careful what he's writing.

00:06:27 Jack

That doesn't make any sense, yeah?

00:06:31 Kevin

The next one is another super common confused one.

00:06:37 Kevin

This time there's three is there there and there.

00:06:41 Kevin

Alright, and so we've got there TH ERE not just over there then there's TH E IR some of your it's their their book, their house, their store. And then there's the contraction. They RTHY apostrophe RE there.

00:07:00 Kevin

So again, these are.

00:07:01 Kevin

All very easy, right?

00:07:02 Kevin

We've got there and there the second.

00:07:04 Kevin

The last two is the exact same thing as your and your that we said it's the possessive versus the contraction, and so you just want to keep those in mind.

00:07:12 Kevin

And then there's also the the location.

00:07:15 Kevin

It's over there.

00:07:19 Kevin

And so again, these are the Super common mistakes that I see a lot of people make is mixing these up and putting the IR where it should be apostrophe RE.

00:07:29 Kevin

Or something like that.

00:07:31 Jack

So yeah, and this one has three right THERETHEIR&THEY apostrophe RE, so.

00:07:43 Jack

Be careful.

00:07:43 Kevin

And that's the same thing and then, so that's the same that's got the your and your.

00:07:47 Kevin

It's the possessive.

00:07:48 Kevin

It's the contraction, but then there's the location. The last one is also very simple, but different different meanings, which is 2/2.

00:07:57 Kevin

And two.

00:07:58 Jack

Right?

00:07:58 Kevin

And so the first, the first one, TW, that's easy.

00:08:01 Kevin

That's the number there are.

00:08:03 Kevin

Two of us speaking right now, right? You have two arms, 2 legs, things like that, 2T WO. But then there's TO&TO.

00:08:14 Kevin

And what's what's those?

00:08:15 Kevin

What's the difference between those ones?

00:08:16 Kevin

This is the one that I think is tricky.

00:08:18 Kevin

All the other ones are a little bit easier.

00:08:20 Kevin

This one is can be a little bit tricky.

00:08:22 Jack

Let me use it in a sentence here.

00:08:24 Jack

OK Kevin, what are you doing tonight?

00:08:27 Jack

I'm going to a party.

00:08:30 Jack

Ohh, what a coincidence.

00:08:32 Jack

I'm going to a party too.

00:08:35 Jack

So what's the difference between those?

00:08:40 Kevin

Right going to a party is TO. It's like the direction, the proposition and the TO is.

00:08:49 Kevin

In that context.

00:08:50 Jack

Right and TO means also right? So I'm going to.

00:08:53 Kevin

It means also, but it also could we use.

00:08:56 Kevin

It with too much.

00:08:58 Kevin

Right when it's like there's a lot of something, not TOOO much TOOO much.

00:09:02 Jack

Right, right, right.

00:09:04 Kevin

There's a lot of it, it's too much right?

00:09:07 Kevin

I'm going to a party don't drink too much when you're there.

00:09:12 Jack

And I'm going to throw a curveball in here.

00:09:14 Jack

Kevin, what are you doing tonight?

00:09:16 Jack

I'm going to two parties.

00:09:19 Jack

Ohh boy OK I'm going to two parties too.

00:09:21 Kevin

So ko twho.

00:09:26 Jack

In the.

00:09:26 Kevin

And again for everyone listening.

00:09:27 Jack

Next, yeah.

00:09:29 Kevin

We'll keep this quick.

00:09:30Kevin

All of these.

00:09:31Kevin

Are written mistakes when you're speaking, it doesn't matter.

00:09:35Kevin

No one will hear the difference.

00:09:36Kevin

You won't hear the difference if it doesn't matter what you're saying, but when you're writing, it is important to know the difference between your and your.

00:09:44Kevin

There there and there and two, two and two and now my pet peeve something that I really hate and some people do this a lot when they're chatting is when you type.

00:09:55Kevin

Your people will type. You are in their chat or when they're typing 2 instead of writing T O R T O, they use the number.

00:10:05Kevin

And that just drives me crazy as a teacher, but I do want to say for everyone listening when you're chatting.

00:10:10Kevin

If you're talking to us and the WeChat and please come talk to us in the WeChat.

00:10:14Kevin

If you're talking to.

00:10:15Kevin

Us, it's OK to use, you are.

00:10:17Kevin

It's OK to use the number 2, do not use it on an English test.

00:10:22Kevin

Do not use it in your English class with your teacher.

00:10:25Kevin

Do not use it when you're emailing someone at work, never but for informal chat with your friends, it's OK.

00:10:33Jack

OK, and I must, uh, admit guilty as charged. If you've read any of my WhatsApp chats, so I'm going to try to be a good student and follow Kevin's rules and I will type out the whole word correctly as to not confuse any of our our language learners.

00:10:54Jack

But there, so that's my promise to you, yeah?

00:10:56Kevin

Yeah, a great idea, Jack.

00:10:58 발표자

Alright, so everybody.

00:10:59Kevin

Out there, just try and be aware and just try and think of it when you're writing.

00:11:02Kevin

?

?

They're there, and they're mean different things. 2/2 and two mean different things, and your and your mean different things. So come to our chat and try and give us a sentence using each of them.

00:11:13Kevin

And compare how they're used different.

00:11:14Kevin

Just get the habit of using the correct one, so we'll see.

00:11:17Kevin

You in the chat.

00:11:19Jack

Bye bye.