

JCGL

HOMOPHONES

Homophones /'hɒməfəʊnz/ are words which have the same pronunciation but differ in meaning. The word *homophone* derives from the Greek ὁμο- (*homo-*) "same", and φωνή (*phōnē*) "voice, utterance."

Examples of homophones in standard British English:

know – *no* /nəʊ/

write – *right* /raɪt/

knew – *new* /nju:/

rose [flower] – *rose* [past tense of *to rise*] /rəʊz/

Homophones are often used to create puns, i.e. plays on words.

Here is an example from *Daddy's Home* <http://www.creators.com/comics/daddys-home.html> Do you understand it?



ADVANCED

For further information on HOMONYMS, HOMOMORPHS, HOMOPHONES & HOMOGRAPHIS, see Quirk, R. *et al.* (1985) *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, London and New York: Longman: § 2.38