

Examples of heteronyms in English

Spelling	Pronun.	PoS	Meaning
<u>abstract</u>	<u>/ˈæbstrækt/</u>	a.	existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence
	<u>/æbˈstrækt/</u>	v.	consider (something) theoretically or separately from something else
abuse	<u>/əˈbjuːs/</u>	n.	improper treatment
	<u>/əˈbjuːz/</u>	v.	to use improperly
<u>address</u>	AmE and BrE <u>/əˈdres/</u>	v.	to speak to (address) the crowd
	AmE <u>/ˈædres/</u> BrE <u>/əˈdres/</u>	n.	a postal address
advocate	<u>/ˈædvəkət/</u>	v.	to argue for someone else
	<u>/ˈædvəkt/</u>	n.	a person who speaks in support of something
affect	<u>/əˈfekt/</u>	v.	to have an effect on
	<u>/ˈæfekt/</u>	n.	mood, emotional state
agape	<u>/əˈgeɪp/</u>	<u>adv.</u>	open wide
	<u>/ˈæɡeɪpiː/, /əˈɡɑːpeɪ/</u>	n.	altruistic, beneficial love

<u>allied</u>	<u>/əˈlaɪd/</u>	v.	They allied themselves with the French.
	<u>/ˈælaɪd/</u>	a.	The Treaty of Vienna had bound the Allied Powers to make war together upon Napoleon.
alternate	<u>/ˈɔːltərnət/</u> or <u>/ɔːlˈtərnət/</u>	adj.	other
	<u>/ˈɔːltərneɪt/</u>	v.	to take turns
<u>alum</u>	<u>/ˈæləm/</u>	n. (or v.)	a type of astringent salt (or to chemically impregnate with that salt)
	<u>/əˈlʌm/</u>	n.	a past attendee or graduate (of either gender) of an educational institution
analyses	<u>/əˈnælɪsiːz/</u>	n.	plural of <i>analysis</i>
	<u>/ˈænelaɪzəz/</u>	v.	third person singular present of <i>analyse</i>
appropriate	<u>/əˈprɒpriət/</u>	adj.	suitable
	<u>/əˈprɒpriət/</u>	v.	to set apart for
attribute	<u>/ˈætrɪbjʊːt/</u>	n.	a characteristic
	<u>/əˈtrɪbjʊːt/</u>	v.	to associate ownership
<u>articulate</u>	<u>/ɑːrˈtrɪkjʊlərt/</u>	v.	"The tourists are the ones who always try to articulate every syllable when they speak the language."

	/ɑ:r'ɪkjʊlɪt/	a.	"In one decade, the image of youth went from radicals uttering rage-filled rhetoric to the much less articulate valley girl or surfer wannabe."
august/August	/ɔ:'gʌst, ə-/	adj.	awe-inspiring, majestic, noble, venerable
	/'ɔ:..gəst/	n.	the eighth month of the Roman, Julian, and Gregorian calendars
axes	/'æksi:z/	n.	pl. of <i>axis</i>
	/'æksɪz/	n.	pl. of <i>axe</i>
ay/aye	/'aɪ/ .	adv.	He voted aye on the legislation he had sponsored
	/'eɪ/	adv.	They vowed their undying love for aye . [clarification needed]
bases	/'beɪsɪz/	n.	plural of <i>base</i>
	/'beɪsi:z/	n.	plural of <i>basis</i>
bass	/'beɪs/	n.	low in pitch
	/'bæs/	n.	a fish
blessed	/'bleɪsɪd/	adj.	having divine aid
	/'blest/	v.	past tense of <i>bless</i>

bow	/'bəʊ/	n.	a stringed weapon, or the initiator of sound in some stringed musical instruments.
		n.	an object that you clip or tie on to your hair to keep it from falling into your face
	/'baʊ/	v.	to bend in respect
		n.	the front of a boat or ship
buffet	/bə'feɪ/ ~ /'bʊfeɪ/	n.	sideboard meal
	/'bʌft/	v.	to strike
close	/'klaʊz/	v.	to shut
	/'klaʊs/	adj.	nearby
<u>combine</u>	/'kɒmbaɪn/	n.	A farm machine that harvests and threshes
	/kəm'baɪn/	v.	To bring two or more things together, mix
compact	/kəm'pækt/	v.	to compress
	/'kɒmpækt/	adj.	small
complex	/'kɒmpleks/	n.	A collection of buildings with a common purpose, such as a university or military base

	/kəmˈpleks/, /ˈkɒmpleks/	adj.	Made up of multiple parts
compound	/ˈkɒmpaʊnd/	n.	A substance having definite proportions of elements
	/kəmˈpaʊnd/	v.	To make a situation worse
concert	/ˈkɒnsərt/	n.	We saw the band in concert .
	/kənˈsɜːrt/	v.	We had to concert all our energy to stay awake.
conduct	/ˈkɒndəkt/	n.	action
	/kənˈdʌkt/	v.	to lead
confines	/ˈkɒnfəɪnz/	n. pl.	Work within the confines of the contract.
	/kənˈfaɪnz/	v.	But the contract confines my creativity!
conflict	/ˈkɒnflɪkt/	n.	The mother said to her belligerent son, "Violence is no way to resolve conflict !"
	/kənˈflɪkt/	v.	The two news reports seem to conflict with each other.
console	/kənˈsəʊl/	v.	provide comfort from grief
	/ˈkɒnsəʊl/	n.	control unit
content	/ˈkɒntɪnt/	n.	information

	/kən'tɛnt/	adj.	satisfied
contract	/'kɒntrækt/	n.	The contract was supposed to expire seven years after it was signed.
	/kən'trækt/	v.	Derek firmly stated that he would rather contract pneumonia and die than stand outside wearing that ridiculous pink and green poncho.
convict	/kən'vɪkt/	v.	to find guilty
	/'kɒnvɪkt/	n.	one convicted
crooked	/'krʊkt/	v.	I crooked my arm to show the sleeve.
	/'krʊkɪd/	a.	Unfortunately, that just made the sleeve look crooked .
decrease	/dɪ'kri:s/	v.	To lessen
	/'di:kri:s/	n.	A diminution
defense	/dɪ'fɛns/	n.	The attorney gave a strong defense .
	/'di:'fɛns/	n.	The coach put out his best defense . (dialectal, used in sports contexts)
desert	/'dezərt/	n.	an arid region
	/dɪ'zɜ:rt/	v.	to abandon

<u>discard</u>	/'diskɑ:rd/	n.	Toss it in the discard pile.
	/dɪs'kɑ:rd/	v.	But I don't want to discard it!
<u>do</u>	/'du:/, /də/	v.	What do you think you are doing?
	/'dɒs/	n.	To warm-up, the singer sang the scale from do .
does	/'dɒs/	n.	pl. of <i>doe</i>
	/'dʌz/	v.	form of <i>do</i>
	/'du:z/	n.	one spelling of the plural of <i>do</i> as a noun ^[citation needed] - e.g. <i>hair does</i>
<u>dogged</u>	/'dɒɡd/	v.	At night proctors patrolled the street and dogged your steps if you tried to go into any haunt where the presence of vice was suspected. (Samuel Butler, <i>The Way of All Flesh</i>)
	/'dɒɡɪd/	a.	Still, the dogged obstinacy of his race held him to the pace he had set, and would hold him till he dropped in his tracks. (Jack London, <i>The Son of the Wolf</i>)
dove	/'dʌv/	n.	a bird
	/'dʌv/	v.	Mainly American past tense of <i>dive</i>
<u>ellipses</u>	/ɪ'ɪpsɪz/	n.	Plural of <u>ellipse</u>

	/ɪˈlpsɪːz/	n.	Plural of ellipsis
entrance	/ˈentrəns/	n.	doorway
	/ɛnˈtræns/	v.	to delight
exploit	/ˈɛksplɔɪt/	n.	a heroic or extraordinary deed
	/ɛksˈplɔɪt/	v.	to make use of or take advantage of
house	/ˈhaus/	n.	a residential building
	/ˈhaʊz/	v.	to place in residence
incense	/ˈɪnsəns/	n.	Dad, I bought this incense at the temple.
	/ɪnˈsəns/	v.	Big mistake. If you burn it here, you'll incense your mother.
increase	/ɪn-ˈkriːs/	v.	To get greater
	/ˈɪn-kriːs/	n.	An augmentation
intimate	/ˈɪntɪmeɪt/	v.	to suggest
	/ˈɪntɪmət/	adj.	very close
invalid	/ɪnˈvæɪd/	adj.	incorrect
	/ˈɪnvəlɪd/	n.	a disabled person

laminate	/'ləmɪneɪt/	v.	to assemble from thin sheets glued together
	/'ləmɪnɪt/	n.	material formed of thin sheets glued together
lead	/'li:d/	v.	to guide
	/'led/	n.	a metal
learned	/'lɜ:rnɪd/	adj.	having much learning
	/'lɜ:rnd/	v.	past tense of <i>learn</i>
lima/Lima	/'laɪmə/	n. or attributive	A vegetable
		pn.	A city in Ohio, United States
	/'li:mə/	pn.	The capital city of Peru
live	/'lɪv/	v.	to be alive
	/'laɪv/	adj.	having life
merchandise	/'mɜ:rtʃəndaɪs/	n.	goods available for sale
	/'mɜ:rtʃəndaɪz/	v.	to make (something) available for sale
minute	/maɪ'nju:t/	adj.	small

	<u>/ˈmɪnət/</u>	n.	unit of time
<u>mobile/Mobile</u>	AmE <u>/ˈmoʊbi:l/</u> , BrE <u>/ˈmoʊbaɪl/</u>	n.	The baby sat in awe at the bright colors on the mobile .
	AmE <u>/ˈmoʊbəl/</u> , BrE <u>/ˈmoʊbaɪl/</u>	a.	Although most animals are mobile , the sponge is sessile.
	<u>/moʊˈbi:l/</u>	pn.	A city in Alabama
moped	<u>/ˈmoʊpəd/</u>	n.	a small motorcycle
	<u>/ˈmoʊpt/</u>	v.	past tense of <i>mope</i>
<u>mow</u>	<u>/ˈmaʊ/</u>	n.	a stack of hay, or the part of a barn where hay is stored
	<u>/ˈmoʊ/</u>	v.	To cut something (especially grass or crops) down or knock down
multiply	<u>/ˈmʌltɪplaɪ/</u>	v.	to increase
	<u>/ˈmʌltɪpli/</u>	adv.	in multiple ways
number	<u>/ˈnʌmbər/</u>	n.	a numeral
	<u>/ˈnʌmər/</u>	adj.	more numb
object	<u>/ˈɒbdʒɪkt/</u>	n.	a thing
	<u>/əbˈdʒekt/</u>	v.	to protest

<u>overall</u>	<u>/oʊvərˈɔ:l/</u>	a.	Overall , we didn't do too badly.
	<u>/'oʊvəɔ:l/</u>	n.	I need new overalls .
<u>periodic</u>	<u>/piəriˈɒdɪk/</u>	a.	Temperature shows periodic variation.
	<u>/pɜːrˈaɪɒdɪk/</u>	a.	Periodic acid is an oxoacid of iodine.
polish/Polish	<u>/'pɒlɪʃ/</u>	v.	to shine
	<u>/'pəʊlɪʃ/</u>	adj.	of, from, or native to Poland
present	<u>/priˈzent/</u>	v.	to reveal
		n.	a gift
	<u>/'prezənt/</u>	n.	the current moment (e.g. At present)
		adj.	existing in the immediate vicinity (e.g. Santa is present.)
primer	AmE <u>/'prɪmə/</u> , BrE <u>/'praɪmə/</u>	n.	Book that covers the basic elements of a subject
	<u>/'praɪmə/</u>	n.	An undercoat of paint
proceeds	<u>/'prəʊsiːdz/</u>	n.	Revenue
	<u>/prəˈsiːdz/</u>	v.	Third person singular of the verb "proceed"

produce	/prəʊ'dju:s/	v.	to make
	/'prɒɹdju:s/	n.	fruit and vegetables
progress	/prə'gres/	v.	I hope things will progress faster.
	/'prəgres/	n.	I haven't made any progress.
project	/'prɒdʒɪkt/	n.	an undertaking
	/prəʊ'dʒɛkt/	v.	to cast an image
putting	/'putɪŋ/	v.	pr. part. of <i>to put</i>
	/'pʌtɪŋ/	v.	pr. part. of <i>to putt</i>
<u>ragged</u>	/'rægd/	v.	She ragged on me about my ragged jeans.
	/'ræɡɪd/	a.	But my ragged jeans are my trademark, I responded.
read	/'ri:d/	v.	present tense
	/'rɛd/	v.	past tense
rebel	/'rɪ'bɛl/	v.	to resist
	/'rɛbəl/	n.	one who <i>rebels</i>

record	<u>/ˈrɛkərd/</u>	n.	physical information
	<u>/rɪˈkɔːrd/</u>	v.	to make <i>a record</i>
recreate	<u>/ˈrɛkriɛt/</u>	v.	to relax by leisure activity
	<u>/ˌriːkriˈeɪt/</u>	v.	to give new life or create again (some style guides specify a hyphen for this sense, to increase clarity: <i>re-create</i>)
refuse	<u>/ˈrɛfjuːs/</u>	n.	garbage
	<u>/rɪˈfjuːz/</u>	v.	to decline
resign	<u>/rɪˈzaɪn/</u>	v.	to quit
	<u>/riːˈsaɪn/</u>	v.	to sign again; <i>re-sign</i>
resume	<u>/rɪˈzjuːm/</u>	v.	to start again
	<u>/ˈrɛzjumeɪ/</u>	n.	<i>curriculum vitae</i> (sometimes distinguished with acute accents; <i>résumé</i>)
retreat	<u>/riˈtri:t/</u>	v.	to fall back from a battle front
	<u>/ˌriːˈtri:t/</u>	v.	to treat again (some style guides specify a hyphen for this sense, to increase clarity: <i>re-treat</i>)
<u>root</u>	<u>/ˈru:t/</u> or <u>/ˈrʊt/</u>	n.	The tree's root was rotted.

	/ˈruːt/	v.	A pig can be trained to root for mushrooms.
row	/ˈrou/	n.; v.	a line; to paddle a boat
	/ˈraʊ/	n.	an argument
sake	/ˈseɪk/	n.	benefit
	/ˈsɑːkiː/	n.	rice wine
second	/ˈsekənd/	adj., n., v.	ordinal of "two", 1/60 of a minute, to endorse a motion
	/səˈkɒnd/	v.	to transfer temporarily to an alternative employment
separate	/ˈseprɪt/	a.	This should be divided into packets of ten cartridges each, which should be rolled up in flannel and hermetically sealed in separate tin canisters. (Samuel W. Baker, <i>The Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia</i>)
	/ˈsepəreɪt/	v.	To stalk these wary antelopes I was obliged to separate from my party, who continued on their direct route. (Samuel W. Baker, <i>The Nile Tributaries of Abyssinia</i>)
sewer	/ˈsjuːər/	n.	drainage pipes
	/ˈsou.ər/	n.	one who <i>sews</i>
shower	/ˈʃaʊ.ər/	n.	precipitation

	/'ʃəʊ.ər/	n.	one who <i>shows</i>
sin/Sin	/'sɪn/	n.	a moral error
	/'saɪn/	n.	abbrev. for <i>sine</i>
	/'si:n/	n.	Sumerian god of the moon
sow	/'səʊ/	v.	to plant seeds
	/'səʊ/	n.	a mature female in the swine species
subject	/'sʌbdʒɪkt/	n.	a topic
	/səb'dʒɛkt/	v.	to cause to undergo
supposed	/sə'pəʊz(ɪ)d/	adj.	being assumed to be
	/sə'pəʊst/	v.	obliged to do
	/sə'pəʊzd/	v.	past sense of suppose
tear	/'tɪər/	n.	liquid produced by crying
	/'tɛər/	v. , n.	to separate
<u>tier</u>	/'tɪər/	n.	Our seats are in the third tier of the stadium.

	/'taɪ.ər/	n.	Will the tier be around to make these knots?
transfer	/'trænsfər/	n.	a movement of something from one place to another
	/træns'fɜ:r/	v.	to move something from one place to another (the verb can be accented on either syllable)
use	/'ju:s/	n.	function, benefit
	/'ju:z/	v.	employ, utilize
unionized	/'ju:niənaɪzd/	adj.	formed into a union
	/ʌn'aɪənaɪzd/	adj.	not ionized (some style guides specify a hyphen for this sense, to increase clarity: <i>un-ionized</i>)
<u>whoop</u>	/'hwʊp/	v.	Pa says he's gonna whoop you good if you don't learn some manners!
	/'hwu:p/	v.	When they scored a goal, he began to whoop and holler.
wicked	/'wɪkɪd/	adj.	bad, evil
	/'wɪkt/	v.	past tense of <i>wick</i> (e.g. to wick away some liquid)
wind	/'wɪnd/	n.	air movement

	/'waɪnd/	v.	to tighten a spring
wound	/'waʊnd/	v.	past tense of <i>wind</i>
	/'wu:nd/	n. , v.	an injury

