

Heteronyms are words that are spelled the same but have different pronunciations and meanings.

Some identically spelled words can be either verbs or nouns, depending on how they're pronounced. For example, "reCORD" (accented on the second syllable) is a verb, while "RECORD" (accented on the first) is a noun.

Similarly, "conFLICT" (accented on the second syllable) is a verb, while "CONFLICT" (accented on the first) is a noun. Some other words that follow this pattern include "permit," "extract," "addict," "combat," "compound," "conduct," "incense," "insult," "present," "produce," and "subject."

Heteronyms

Alternate ALternit- the next choice; ALternate- switch back and forth

Attribute ahTRIByoot- to consider resulting from; AHtribyoot- a characteristic of someone (12)

August AUgust- month [capitalized]; auGUST- important, eminent

Bass BASE- a string instrument; Bass (rhymes with mass)- a fish

Bow BAU- to lower one's head or the front of a ship; BOH- used to shoot arrows

Bowed BAU-d- to bend over; BOH-d- bent

Buffet BUFFet- to pound or bump; buFAY- place where you serve yourself

Close CLOZE- to shut; CLOS- near

Conduct KONduckt- behavior; kunDUCKT- to lead (see this heteronym below)

Conflict konFLIKT- to act against; KAHNflict- a fight or disagreement

Console KAHNsole- an upright case; kunSOLE- to comfort

Content KAHNtent- meaning; kunTENT- satisfied

Contest kunTEST- to argue; KAHNtest- a match of skill

Contract CONtract- an agreement; conTRACT- to shrink or to agree on a project

Convert conVERT- to change one's belief; CONvert- one whose belief was changed

Converse KAHNvers- the opposite; kunVERS- to talk

Convict kunVIKT- to find guilty; KAHNvikt- a prisoner

Crooked KROOKt- having bent your neck; KROOK-ed- having a curve; not ethical

Deliberate diLIBerit- carefully considered; diLIBerate- to think over, consider

Digest DYEjest- collection of published material; dieJEST- absorb nutrients

Do DOO- to accomplish; DOE- a musical note

Does DUZ- performs; DOZE- more than one female deer

Dove DUV- a bird; DOEV- jumped off

Drawer DROR- the compartment you pull out from the dresser; DRAWer- one who draws

Excuse Eks KUSE- to let someone off; EksCOOS- a reason or explanation

House HAUS- a building that serves as living quarters; HOWZ- to provide with living quarters

Intern INtern- a physician in training; inTERN- confine to prescribed area

Invalid inVALLid- not valid; INvallid- an ill person

Lead LEED- to guide; LED- a metallic element

Minute MINNit- 60 seconds; myNOOT- tiny

Moderate MODerit- keeping within reason; moderATE- to preside over

Object obJEKT- to complain; OBjekt- a thing

Primer PRIHMer- an elementary book; PRYmer- the preparatory coat of paint

Produce PROdoos- vegetables; proDOOS- bring forth

Project proJEKT- to show a movie; PRAHjekt- a task

Rebel REBBell- a person who does things his own way; a resister; reBELL- to resist

Record RECKord- a list; reKORD- to write down

Recreation rek-ree-Ashun- pastime; REEcreeAshun- remake (also, recreate)

Refuse reFUSE- to deny; REFFyoos- garbage

Relay REElay- a race by teams; rehLAY- to pass along, such as information Rerun
reRUN- to race again or to repeat a show on television; RErun- a repeated TV show

Resign reZYN- to quit; reSYN- to sign again (e.g., a contract) [usu. hyphenated as re-sign]

Resume reeZOOM- to restart; REHZamay- a document of experience

Row ROH- a line of items or people; ROUW- a fight

Secrete seeKREET- to discharge; SEEkret- not known to others

Separate SEPerate- to divide into groups; SEPret- not joined together

Sewer SOwer- one who sews; SOOwer- place for human waste

Sow SOUW- a female pig; SO- to plant seed

Subject SUBjekt- the theme or topic; subJEKT- to force upon someone

Tear TARE- to rip; TEER- fluid in eye

Wind WINd- the blowing air ; WHINEd- to coil up

Wound WOOND- to injure; WOWND- coiled up