Homophones

When writing a paper, it is very important to choose the correct words so that the reader can understand what you, the writer, want to tell them. There is one category of words that can be difficult to use correctly: homophones.

Homophones are a group of words that sound the same when they are said aloud, but have different spellings and meanings. They can also be different parts of speech. When using a word that is a homophone, it is important to know the meaning for each word, so you can choose the one you want. There are a few examples of homophones, their meanings, and examples of how they can be used.

Homophones	Example
• **Accept** (Verb) – to receive or take something	• My friend was happy to **accept** the gift.
• **Except** (Preposition) – not including something	• The restaurant is open every day of the week **except** Sunday.
• **Affect** (Adverb) – to cause a change	• Her decision to skip class could **affect** her grade.
• **Effect** (Noun) – a change that is produced by a cause	• The snow had little **effect** on the school schedule.
• **Close** (Verb) – the opposite of open	• Please **close** your books and put them away.
• **Clothes** (Noun) – items people wear	• I need some new **clothes** for winter.
• **Hear** (Verb) – to be aware of sound	• Did you **hear** the phone ring while you were sleeping?
• **Here** (Adverb) - a specific location	• Please come **here** at 3:30 to take your test.

- **Know** (Verb) – to have information or knowledge in your mind

- Do you **know** how to find the answer to the math problem on the board?

- **No** (Adverb) used to give a negative answer or reply

- **No**, I do not want to see a movie tonight.

- **Lose** (Verb) – to be unable to find someone or something*

- Don't **lose** your way to the bus station.

- **Loose** (Adjective) – not tight, not held together tightly*

- Some of the buttons on my shirt are **loose**.

- **Right** (Adjective) – correct

- That was the **right** answer.

- **Write** (Verb) – to form numbers or words using a pen, pencil, etc.

- She decided to **write** her paper on the computer instead of using paper.

- **Than** (Conjunction) – used to compare

- I am taller **than** both of my parents.

- **Then** (Adverb) – used to indicate time or order of events

- I wanted to go to the park, but **then** it started raining.

- **Their** (Adjective) – relating or belonging to certain people, animals, or things

- The angry orange cat sitting in the living room is **their** family pet.

- **There** (Adverb) – a specific place or location

- Please put the bags **there** on the table.

- **They're** – used as a contraction of **they are**

- **They're** waiting for us at the bus stop.

- **To** (Preposition) – used to indicate the place, person, or thing that something moves toward

- I am going **to** the mall after we finish eating lunch.

- **Too** (Adverb) – more than what is wanted, accepted, needed, possible, etc.

- The pink bag is **too** heavy for me to lift by myself, but the blue one is lighter.

- **Two** (Noun) – the number 2

- I would like **two** copies please.

Note: Lose and loose do not have the same pronunciation

Remember to choose words that help you clearly express your thoughts in order to avoid confusion. When you are unsure of what world would be correct, remember that you can always look up the definition in a dictionary.