

Support for English Learners

Unit 5, page 42: Homophones

Some students may have difficulty understanding that some words sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. They may also have difficulty spelling homophones correctly.

Listen

Say: *Listen while I use the Basic Words sent, cent, and scent in sentences: I sent the package to my friend. I have one cent. I love the scent of roses. What do you notice about these words? Do these words sound alike or different? Sent, cent, and scent are homophones. Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings. Discuss the meaning of each homophone.*

Speak and Read

Write these sentences on the board: *I will wait for you. What is the weight of that horse?* Circle the homophones *wait* and *weight*. Read the sentences aloud, and have students repeat them after you. Point out that *wait* and *weight* sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Ask volunteers to define *homophone*. Repeat this procedure with *creek* and *creak*.

Spell

Beginning/Preproduction Create and distribute word cards for the Basic Words *wait, weight, sent, cent, heel, and heal*. Have partners separate cards into homophone pairs. Have students copy the pairs into their word-study notebooks.

Early Production/Speech Emergent Provide each student with letter cards for the Basic Words *wait, weight, sent, cent, heel, heal, heard, and herd*. Say each pair of homophones aloud. Have students spell each pair with their letter cards and write them in their word-study notebooks. Say: *What does each homophone mean?* Help volunteers provide definitions.

Intermediate/Advanced Write the words *heal, heel, heard, and herd* on the board. Using separate sentence strips, write sentences for each Basic Word. Leave a blank for the Basic Word. Have students copy the sentences into their word-study notebooks, completing the sentences with a word from the board. Have volunteers read their sentences aloud, spelling the homophones.

I heard the phone ring.

The herd of cattle ate the grass.