

LANGUAGE CORNER

COMMONLY MISPRONOUNCED WORDS

SAY IT RIGHT!

Word and pronunciation	Correct IPA notation
<p>1. generation The word is often mispronounced as <i>geh-nuh-ray-shen</i>. The correct pronunciation is <i>jeh-nuh-ray-shn</i>. <i>KIA has launched a new generation of KIA Carnival.</i></p>	<p>ˌdʒɛnəˈreɪʃən</p>
<p>2. nephew The word is often mispronounced as <i>neh-pheu</i>. The correct pronunciation is <i>neh-fyu</i>. <i>My nephew Carl, is only two years younger than me.</i></p>	<p>nɛˈfju</p>
<p>3. steak The word is often mispronounced as <i>stik</i>. The correct pronunciation is <i>steyk</i>. <i>I like my steak medium rare, please.</i></p>	<p>steɪk</p>
<p>4. university The word is often mispronounced as <i>oo-ni-ver-ci-tee</i>. The correct pronunciation of the words <i>yoo-nuh-vu-suh-tee</i>. <i>Mardiah is reading law at University Malaya.</i></p>	<p>juːniˈvɜːsəti</p>
<p>5. athlete The word is often mispronounced as <i>a-tuh-leet</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>ath-leet</i>. <i>The athlete won gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics in the 100m event.</i></p>	<p>ˈæθliːt</p>
<p>6. extraordinary The word is often mispronounced as <i>ek-struh-aw-duh-nuh-ree</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>ik-straw-duh-ne-ree</i>. <i>Hercules had extraordinary strength.</i></p>	<p>ɪkˈstrɔːdɪnəri</p>
<p>7. tuition The word is often mispronounced as <i>tyoo-shun</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>tyu-i-shun</i>. <i>Nowadays, students in Malaysia attend a lot of tuition classes.</i></p>	<p>tjuˈɪʃən</p>
<p>8. hours The word is often mispronounced as <i>hau-uhz</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>au-uhz</i>. <i>How many hours do you spend playing video games in a day?</i></p>	<p>aʊəz</p>
<p>9. vegetable The word is often mispronounced as <i>ve-ji-tay-bl</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>vej-tuh-bl</i>. <i>Is tomato a vegetable?</i></p>	<p>veˈdʒɪtəbəl</p>
<p>10. quay The word is often mispronounced as <i>kway</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>kee</i>. <i>Tourists love taking photos of the colourful boats bobbing along the quay.</i></p>	<p>kiː</p>
<p>11. Wednesday The word is often mispronounced as <i>Wed-nes-day</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>Wenz-day</i>. <i>We'll be flying off to the Maldives on Wednesday.</i></p>	<p>ˈwenzdeɪ</p>
<p>12. often The word is often mispronounced as <i>oft-ten</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>o-fen</i>. <i>It often rains in June.</i></p>	<p>ˈɒfən</p>
<p>13. abalone The word is often mispronounced as <i>ah-buh-lon</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>a-buh-low-nee</i>. <i>Abalone is a marine gastropod mollusk.</i></p>	<p>æbəˈleɪn</p>
<p>14. film The word is often mispronounced as <i>fee-lum</i>. The correct pronunciation of the word is <i>fiɪlm</i>. <i>Film cameras are making a comeback.</i></p>	<p>fɪlm</p>

HOMOPHONES

Definition: Words that have the same sound, but different spelling.

	Word and meaning	Example in a sentence
1.	(a) son – a male child in a family	Aiman is the eldest <u>son</u> in his family.
	(b) sun – the star round which the earth orbits	We sat on the edge of a cliff and watched the <u>sun</u> go down.
2.	(a) marry – to join in marriage	My uncle plans to <u>marry</u> his sweetheart next year.
	(b) merry – feeling of joy, happiness	<u>Merry</u> laughter could be heard at the party.
3.	(a) meat – flesh of an animal	I'm having a hard time chewing this piece of <u>meat</u> .
	(b) meet – to arrange or happen to come into the company of (a person(s))	Anson and Lisa arranged to <u>meet</u> for dinner.
4.	(a) ate – (past tense of 'eat') – to put something into one's mouth and swallow it.	The boys <u>ate</u> <u>eight</u> chicken drumsticks between them.
	(b) eight – a number after 7 and before 9.	
5.	(a) creek – a stream	Months of drought left the <u>creek</u> dry.
	(b) creak – a harsh sound when something heavy is being moved	Ally could hear the floorboards <u>creak</u> as she walked on them.
6.	(a) clique – a small close-knit group	The association is run by a small <u>clique</u> of residents.
	(b) click – a short, sharp sound (like a switch being used)	There was a <u>click</u> as the door shut.
7.	(a) overseas – in a foreign country across the sea	Naveen has lived <u>overseas</u> for a number of years.
	(b) oversees – to supervise	My mom <u>oversees</u> the daily operations of her restaurant.
8.	(a) sail – travel in a boat for sport or recreation	We will <u>sail</u> in a southeast direction to reach the harbour.
	(b) sale – the exchange of commodity for money	The year-end <u>sale</u> starts next month.
9.	(a) weather – the general condition of the atmosphere	There is a chance of extreme <u>weather</u> in the coming months.
	(b) whether – if or not	I didn't know <u>whether</u> to bring a raincoat or an umbrella for our hike, so I brought both.
10.	(a) hire – to request temporary use for payment	It was a good decision to <u>hire</u> a guide for our caving expedition.
	(b) higher – above, greater or larger	When you see a tsunami approaching, climb to <u>higher</u> ground.
11.	(a) course – a series of lectures/lessons in a particular qualification	I'm planning to sign up for a first-aid <u>course</u> .
	(b) coarse – rough, not smooth	The carpenter used a sandpaper to smoothen the <u>coarse</u> surface of the wood.
12.	(a) byte – unit of data that is eight binary digits long	A <u>byte</u> is a group containing 8 bits.
	(b) bite – use teeth to cut into something	Don't <u>bite</u> your nails!
13.	(a) bass – lowest male adult singing voice.	Ho Chin sings <u>bass</u> in the choir.
	(b) base – a group of people supporting a person, organization etc.	Taylor Swift has a loyal fan <u>base</u> .
14.	(a) aid – to help someone	Many countries offered emergency <u>aid</u> to Taiwan after the earthquake.
	(b) aide – assistant / helper	A hospice <u>aide</u> assists patients in completing their daily tasks.



HOMONYMS

Definition: Words that have the same sound, same spelling but different meanings.

	Word and meaning	Example in a sentence
1.	(a) row – a line of seats	That’s my grandfather in the front <u>row</u> .
	(b) row – to propel a boat with oars	You need oars to <u>row</u> the boat.
2.	(a) ruler – a leader or head of a country or government	Ramses II was a prominent <u>ruler</u> in ancient Egypt.
	(b) ruler – a straight strip made of wood, metal etc. used for drawing lines.	You can draw a straight line with a <u>ruler</u> .
3.	(a) bar – a flat long piece of wood, metal, chocolate	I’ll get a chocolate <u>bar</u> to nibble on later.
	(b) bar – to prohibit or prevent	The authorities will <u>bar</u> anyone from entering the abandoned factory.
4.	(a) bank – land alongside a river or lake	The hikers set up camp along the river <u>bank</u> .
	(b) bank – a financial establishment	I need to go to the <u>bank</u> to withdraw some money.
5.	(a) ring – a circular band made of metal worn on a finger.	The bride wore a 3-carat diamond <u>ring</u> on her finger.
	(b) ring – an enclosure for sports like boxing	The spectators gathered around the <u>ring</u> to watch the boxers.
6.	(a) capital – city or town that functions as the administrative center of a country	What is the <u>capital</u> city of Brunei?
	(b) capital – letter of the alphabet in upper case	Write your names down in <u>capital</u> letters.
7.	(a) light – make/start/ignite (a fire)	Campers often <u>light</u> a fire to keep wild animals at bay.
	(b) light – not heavy	This pillow is as <u>light</u> as a feather.
8.	(a) sign – a gesture to convey information	Are you familiar with deaf <u>sign</u> language?
	(b) sign – write one’s name on something	<u>Sign</u> your name on the dotted line.
9.	(a) bat – a sports equipment with a solid surface used for hitting	Ben swung his <u>bat</u> and hit the ball.
	(b) bat – a nocturnal flying mammal	A lone <u>bat</u> flew out of the barn at dusk.
10.	(a) glasses – a pair of lenses set in frame resting on nose to correct defective eyesight or enhance vision.	Anya and Hans put on 3D <u>glasses</u> when they went on the Transformers dark ride.
	(b) glasses – drinking containers made from glass	I poured some orange juice into the <u>glasses</u> .
11.	(a) date – a social appointment	Fred took his girlfriend on a <u>date</u> by the harbour.
	(b) date – day of the month by number	What’s today’s <u>date</u> ?
12.	(a) pool – a small area of still water	Harjit took a swim in the <u>pool</u> .
	(b) pool – put money into a common fund	Let’s <u>pool</u> our money to buy a new TV.
13.	(a) park – a large public garden for recreation	The children play in the <u>park</u> every evening.
	(b) park – bring a vehicle to a halt	<u>Park</u> your car at the designated area.
14.	(a) lie – to give false statements	I have never told a <u>lie</u> in my entire life.
	(b) lie – to assume a horizontal resting position	You’ll get a sunburn if you <u>lie</u> in the sun too long.



IDIOMS

Definition: phrases or expressions where its meaning cannot simply be interpreted by just looking at the individual words in the phrases.

	Word and meaning	Example in a sentence
1.	black sheep – typically refers to a family member who has done something that embarrasses the family/ an outcast	Rowan, who is always getting into trouble with the law is the black sheep of the family.
2.	a plum job – a desirable position	After slaving away for years, Elisa finally managed to get a plum job at a famous eatery.
3.	cut corners – doing something cheaply and as quickly as possible often compromising quality.	The building collapsed because the company cut corners on materials and time when it was under construction.
4.	dicing with death – to do something very dangerous.	You'll be dicing with death if you think of swimming in shark infested waters.
5.	have a ball – to enjoy one's self to the fullest.	Bee Jun, Rahman and Vivek are going to have a ball playing video games all day long after the exams.
6.	digital native – one who grew up in the digital technology age.	Gen Z kids are digital natives when it comes to all things tech.
7.	up for grabs – available to anyone	Five tickets to New Jeans concert are up for grabs tonight.
8.	pick one's brain – to ask someone who knows a lot about a subject for information.	Why don't you pick Taib's brain on how to build a robot?

PROVERBS

Definition: A popular saying that expresses an established fact or truth, often used to give advice to another person.

	Word and meaning	Example in a sentence
1.	absence makes the heart grow fonder – when you are away from a loved one, you will miss them more.	After a year away from my family, I really miss them. It's true when people say, absence makes the heart grow fonder .
2.	too many cooks spoil the broth – if too many people are tasked with one job, it'll not turn out well.	Our science presentation went awry because we had too many people in our group. As the saying goes, too many cooks spoil the broth .
3.	don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today – don't procrastinate, do something immediately if you can	It's a good idea to start doing our project today. Mum always tells me not to put off until tomorrow what I can do today.
4.	a chain is only as strong as the weakest link – a group is only as strong as its weakest member. Therefore, if one person doesn't give it his all, the whole group would suffer.	Everyone should pitch in and give it their all, for a chain is only as strong as the weakest link .
5.	charity begins at home – one should help with the needs of those closest to them before trying to help others.	Dania spends her money helping her friends but she neglects her own children. Doesn't she know that charity begins at home ?
6.	no pain, no gain – it is often necessary to work hard to succeed.	If you want to win the tournament, you've got to practise. No pain, no gain , remember?
7.	a stitch in time saves nine – solving a problem earlier may save more time later.	You'd better get your old car checked before travelling. As you know, a stitch in time saves nine .
8.	to err is human, to forgive divine – it's human nature to make mistakes, but forgiving someone who has wronged you is godlike.	Macy has wronged you numerous times, but be the better person. Just forgive her; as they say, to err is human, to forgive divine .