Common Homophones

A **homophone** is two or more words that sound the same, but have different spelling and different meanings.

There/they're/their

There is a word that has many uses (in fact, I could write an entire post on the word there) : noun, pronoun, but often it is used as an adverb to indicate where. *Example: The garden is over there.*

The other two uses are pronouns. *They're* is a contraction meaning: They are. *Example: They're going to the movies tonight.*

Their is a possessive pronoun showing ownership of two or more people. *Example: Bruno is their dog.*

It's/its

It's is a contraction meaning it is. *Example: It's going to be hot today.*

Its is a possessive pronoun. *Example: The couch has a tear in its cushion.*

Your/you're

You're is a contraction that means you are. Example: You're running the 400 and 800 in the track meet today.

Your is a possessive pronoun showing ownership. Example: Your hair looks very nice today.

Affect/effect

Affect is a verb meaning impact or change. *Example: The soil was affected by the continuous spray of pesticides.*

Effect is a noun, the result of the change. *Example: The effect of the tsunami was devastating.*

Than/then

Than is a word that indicates a comparison. *Example: He is taller than I am.*

Then indicates a sequence of events in order. *Example: We are going to the movies and then we will go home.*

Accept/except

Accept means to consent to receive. *Example: The publisher accepted her picture book about peanut butter.*

Except means to not include. *Example: I ate everything in the fridge except the mayonnaise.*

To/too/two

To is a preposition that indicates direction or intention. *Example: They walked to the park.*

Too is used to emphasize something that is excessive OR to mean also. *Example: The cherry pie is too sweet/ Alfred is coming to the beach too.*

Two is a number. *Example: I have two ears.*

Sit/set

Sit means to physical sit down. *Example: Arnie found a chair and decided to sit.*

Set is to place an object down. E*xample: He set the glass on the counter.*