

The Alice Sound



HOMONYMS

WRITING RESOURCE



HOMONYMS

During her travels, Alice often has a hard time understanding the characters she meets. A lot of the problems are caused by language which turns out to be VERY slippery and hard to handle!

Words can have lots of different meanings.

Sometimes different words with different meanings sound the same, and can even be written the same. We call these words HOMONYMS. Examples include: heir (someone who inherits something) and air, or rose (to get up) and rose (a kind of flower).

Read the passages below and see if you can identify the homonyms:

'You promised to tell me your history, you know,' said Alice [...]

Mine is a long and a sad tale!' said the Mouse, turning to Alice, and sighing.

'It is a long tail, certainly,' said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse's tail; 'but why do you call it sad?' And she kept on puzzling about it while the mouse was speaking...'

(*Wonderland*, chapter 3)



"If everybody minded their own business," the Duchess said in a hoarse growl, "the world would go round a deal faster than it does."

"Which would not be an advantage," said Alice, who felt very glad to get an opportunity of showing off a little of her knowledge. "Just think of what work it would make with the day and night! You see the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis—"

"Talking of axes," said the Duchess, "chop off her head!" (*Wonderland*, chapter 6)



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HOMONYMS

“And how many hours a day did you do lessons?” said Alice, in a hurry to change the subject.

“Ten hours the first day,” said the Mock Turtle: “nine the next, and so on.”

“What a curious plan!” exclaimed Alice.

“That’s the reason they’re called lessons,” the Gryphon remarked: “because they lessen from day to day.”

(*Wonderland*, chapter 9)



“Aren’t you sometimes frightened at being planted out here, with nobody to take care of you?”

“There’s the tree in the middle,” said the Rose: “what else is it good for?”

“But what could it do, if any danger came?” Alice asked.

“It says ‘Bough-wough!’” cried a Daisy: “that’s why its branches are called boughs!”

(*Looking-Glass*, chapter 2)

Trees also have BARK of course!



TASKS:

Can you think of four more? (there’s one in the question!)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Write a scene where characters misunderstand each other because of a homonym.