

Activities for Near Homophone Word Pairs



She was **conscious** of her
hunger.



His **conscience** would not
allow him to tell a lie.

Reference & Cheat-Sheet Table

Word Pair	Part of Speech / Clue	Easy Substitution Trick	Example Sentence
Advice / Advise	Advice = Noun (/s/ sound)	Replace Advice with <i>Guidance</i> .	She gave me great advice . (<i>guidance</i>)
	Advise = Verb (/z/ sound)	Replace Advise with <i>Recommend</i> .	I advise you to study. (<i>recommend</i>)
Conscious / Conscience	Conscious = Awake/Aware	Replace Conscious with <i>Aware</i> .	He was conscious during the exam. (<i>aware</i>)
	Conscience = Moral sense	Replace Conscience with <i>Inner Voice</i> .	Her conscience told her to tell the truth. (<i>inner voice</i>)
Elicit / Illicit	Elicit = Draw out (Verb)	Replace Elicit with <i>Bring out</i> .	The teacher tried to elicit an answer. (<i>bring out</i>)
	Illicit = Illegal/Unlawful (Adj)	Replace Illicit with <i>Illegal</i> .	The detective stopped the illicit activity. (<i>illegal</i>)
Emigrate / Immigrate	Emigrate = Exit a country (E)	Think E = <i>Exit</i> .	They emigrated from Ireland. (<i>exited</i>)
	Immigrate = Move into a country (I)	Think I = <i>Into</i> .	They immigrated into the US. (<i>moved into</i>)
Desert / Dessert	Desert = Dry land / Abandon	Desert = 1 'S' (<i>Sand</i>)	Camels live in the dry desert .
	Dessert = Sweet treat	Dessert = 2 'S's (<i>Sweet Stuff</i>)	I would love chocolate cake for dessert !
Affect / Effect	Affect = Verb (95% of the time)	Replace Affect with <i>Influence</i> .	The rain will affect our plans. (<i>influence</i>)
	Effect = Noun (95% of the time)	Replace Effect with <i>Result</i> .	The effect of the rain was wet shoes. (<i>result</i>)

Learning the Word Pairs

Complete the definitions and write sample sentences for each word pair.

Pronunciation: • <i>Emigrate</i> — /EM-ih-grayt/ • <i>Immigrate</i> — /IM-ih-grayt/	Pronunciation: • <i>Desert</i> — /DEZ-ert/ (noun: dry place) • <i>Desert</i> — /dih-ZERT/ (verb: abandon) • <i>Dessert</i> — /dih-ZERT/ (sweet treat)	Pronunciation: • <i>Affect</i> — /uh-FEKT/ • <i>Effect</i> — /ih-FEKT/
Definitions: Emigrate — _____ _____ _____ Immigrate — _____ _____ _____	Definitions: • Desert (noun) — a dry, sandy region • Desert (verb) — to abandon • Dessert — a sweet treat after a meal	Definitions: Affect — _____ _____ Effect — _____ _____
Quick Tip: Emigrate = Exit Immigrate = In	Quick Tip: You want dessert — so it has two S's (because you want seconds).	Quick Tip: Affect = Action Effect = End result
Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Pronunciation: - Advice — /əd-VĪS/ - Advise — /əd-VĪZ/	Pronunciation: - Conscious — /KON-shus/ - Conscience — /KON-shuns/	Pronunciation: - Elicit — /ih-LISS-it/ - Illicit — /ih-LISS-it/
Definitions: Advice — _____ _____ _____ Advise — _____ _____ _____	Definitions: Conscious — _____ _____ _____ Conscience — _____ _____ _____	Definitions: Elicit — _____ _____ _____ Illicit — _____ _____ _____
Quick Tip: If it ends with -ice , it's something you receive. If it ends with -ise , it's something you do.	Quick Tip: Your conscience guides your choices. If you're conscious , you're awake to make them.	Quick Tip: Elicit = E voked Illicit = I llegal
Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Sample Sentences: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Learning the Word Pairs Answer Key

Pronunciation: • <i>Emigrate</i> — /EM-ih-grayt/ • <i>Immigrate</i> — /IM-ih-grayt/	Pronunciation: • <i>Desert</i> — /DEZ-ert/ (noun: dry place) • <i>Desert</i> — /dih-ZERT/ (verb: abandon) • <i>Dessert</i> — /dih-ZERT/ (sweet treat)	Pronunciation: • <i>Affect</i> — /uh-FEKT/ • <i>Effect</i> — /ih-FEKT/
Definitions: Emigrate — to <i>leave</i> one country to live in another Immigrate — to <i>enter</i> a new country to live there	Definitions: Desert (noun) — a dry, sandy region Desert (verb) — to abandon Dessert — a sweet treat after a meal	Definitions: Affect — a <i>verb</i> meaning to influence Effect — a <i>noun</i> meaning the result
Quick Tip: Emigrate = Exit Immigrate = In	Quick Tip: You want dessert — so it has two S's (because you want seconds).	Quick Tip: Affect = Action Effect = End result
Sample Sentences: They chose to emigrate from Italy in 1920. Many families immigrate to the U.S. for new opportunities. When you emigrate , you leave your homeland. When you immigrate , you arrive in a new one.	Sample Sentences: The Sahara is a huge desert . Never desert your friends. Chocolate cake is my favorite dessert . The soldiers who desert their post face consequences.	Sample Sentences: The weather may affect our plans. The new rule had a positive effect on behavior. Loud noises affect my ability to focus. The medicine had a calming effect .

Pronunciation: • <i>Advice</i> — /əd-VĪS/ • <i>Advise</i> — /əd-VĪZ/	Pronunciation: • <i>Conscious</i> — /KON-shus/ • <i>Conscience</i> — /KON-shuns/	Pronunciation: • <i>Elicit</i> — /ih-LISS-it/ • <i>Illicit</i> — /ih-LISS-it/
Definitions: • Advice — a <i>noun</i> meaning guidance or suggestions • Advise — a <i>verb</i> meaning to give guidance or recommend an action	Definitions: • Conscious — aware, awake, noticing what's happening • Conscience — your inner sense of right and wrong	Definitions: • Elicit — to draw out or bring forth (information, emotion, response) • Illicit — illegal or not allowed
Quick Tip: If it ends with -ice, it's something you <i>receive</i>. If it ends with -ise, it's something you <i>do</i>.	Quick Tip: Your conscience guides your choices. If you're conscious, you're awake to make them.	Quick Tip: Elicit = Evoked Illicit = Illegal
Sample Sentences: My coach gave great advice before the game. I would advise you to start early. Her advice helped me stay calm. Doctors often advise patients to drink more water.	Sample Sentences: She became conscious of someone watching her. His conscience told him to tell the truth. The patient was barely conscious after the fall. My conscience bothered me all night.	Sample Sentences: The teacher tried to elicit thoughtful answers. The police shut down the illicit operation. A good story can elicit strong emotions. He was arrested for selling illicit goods.

Activity #1 "Sound It Out" Word Sort

- **How It Works:** Create a printable worksheet with two distinct columns (e.g., *Advice* /s/ vs. *Advise* /z/ or *Desert* /DES-ert/ vs. *Dessert* /dih-ZERT/). Give students the included bank of short sentences with a blank space.
- **The Game Element:** Students read the sentence aloud, pay close attention to the small pronunciation clue, and glue the word into the correct "Sound Bucket."
 - Start with **individual sets** for focused practice.
 - Then combine them into a **mixed review deck** once students are comfortable — perfect for centers or partner sorting.

Activity #2 Online Practice

Have students practice by playing this online self-checking trail game found on Book Units Teacher.

Links to the Free Resources on Effect vs Affect

[The Ripple Trail: Affect or Effect?](#)

[Google Slide Organizers](#)

[Free Boom Card Activity](#)

"Sound It Out" Word Sort

Advice / Advise

My teacher always
gives helpful
_____ before a
big test.

I would _____
you to study a little
each night instead
of cramming.

Can you _____
me on which book
to choose for my
report?

The counselor's
_____ helped
me make a better
decision.

Conscious / Conscience

My teacher always
gives helpful
_____ before a
big test.

I would _____
you to study a little
each night instead
of cramming.

Can you _____
me on which book
to choose for my
report?

The counselor's
_____ helped
me make a better
decision.

Elicit / Illicit

The teacher tried to
_____ thoughtful
answers from the
class.

The detective
arrested the
suspect for selling
_____ goods.

A good question
can _____ strong
emotions from
readers.

The police
discovered an
_____ trade
happening online.

Emigrate / Immigrate

When people _____ to a country, they arrive to start a new life.

My grandparents chose to _____ from Ireland during the famine.

Many families _____ to the United States seeking new opportunities.

When people _____ from one country, they leave their homeland behind.

Desert / Dessert

I can't wait to see what's for _____ after dinner tonight!

Soldiers who _____ their post may face serious consequences.

The Sahara is the largest hot _____ in the world.

Chocolate cake is my favorite _____ on special occasions.

Affect / Effect

The medicine produced a calming _____ after a few minutes.

The loud noise didn't _____ her concentration at all.

How will this weather _____ our travel plans?

The new rule had a positive _____ on student behavior.

The Case of the Missing Dessert



A proofreading adventure full of confusing word pairs

Detective Poppy Pennington was (**conscious / conscience**) of one important fact: someone in Room 12 had stolen the class (**desert / dessert**). And not just any dessert, the triple-chocolate-marshmallow-volcano cake.

Her partner, Milo, tried to give her helpful (**advice / advise**), but Poppy waved him off. "I don't need anyone to (**advice / advise**) me. I've solved harder cases than this."

Their first clue came from a mysterious note taped to the classroom door. It read:

"I will (**emigrate / immigrate**) to a land where cake is respected."

"That doesn't even make sense," Milo whispered. "You (**emigrate / immigrate**) *from* a place, not *to* cake."

Poppy ignored him. She was trying to (**elicit / illicit**) information from the crowd of students gathered around the empty cake pan. But all she got were gasps, shrieks, and one confession about an (**elicit / illicit**) stash of gummy worms hidden in a desk.

Suddenly, Poppy froze. Her (**conscious / conscience**) whispered, *Check the science lab*. She sprinted down the hall, Milo trailing behind like a confused duck.

Inside the lab, they found a trail of crumbs leading to the terrarium. And inside the terrarium sat... **Mr. Fluffles**, the class hamster, looking extremely guilty.

"The cake must have (**affect / effect**)ed him," Milo said. "No," Poppy corrected. "The cake had an (**affect / effect**) on him. He's bouncing off the walls."

Mr. Fluffles squeaked loudly, which seemed to (**affect / effect**) Milo's ability to think clearly.

Poppy sighed. "Let's face it. The cake is gone. Completely (**desert / dessert**)ed."

But then she noticed something: a tiny crumb stuck to Milo's sleeve.

"Milo," she said slowly, "is there something you want to tell me?"

Milo gulped. "I... might have taste-tested the cake. Just a little. But only to (**elicit / illicit**) its flavor profile!"

Poppy stared at him.

"That is not how those words work."

The Case of the Missing Dessert Answer Key



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Zero-Prep Classroom Games

"Stand Up / Sit Down" Pronunciation Battle

- **How It Works:** Assign one movement to Word A and another to Word B (e.g., *Stand up* for **Advice** /s/, *Sit down* for **Advise** /z/ or *Touch your nose* for **Elicit**, *Tap your head* for **Illicit**).
- **The Game Element:** The teacher reads a target word aloud in a sentence (emphasizing the key sound) or calls out just the definition. Students must react quickly with the correct movement.

"Act It & Say It" (Partner Charades)

- **How It Works:** Pair students up. Partner A is given a secret word pair (like *Desert* vs. *Dessert* or *Conscious* vs. *Conscience*).
- **The Game Element:** Partner A acts out one of the words using exaggerated body language (e.g., wiping sweat off their forehead for *desert*, or rubbing their tummy happily for *dessert*). Partner B has to guess the word **and** pronounce it correctly with the right syllable stress before switching roles.

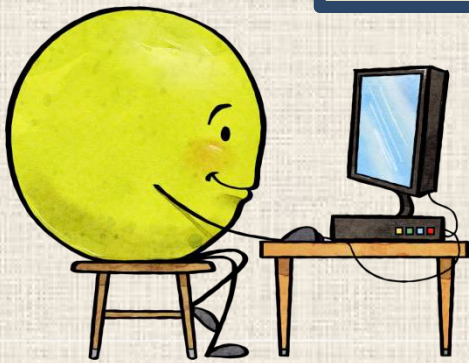
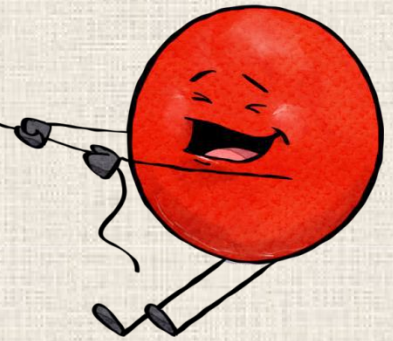
The 60-Second Sentence Sprint

- **How It Works:** Write a near-homophone pair on the board (e.g., *Affect* / *Effect* or *Emigrate* / *Immigrate*).
- **The Game Element:** Challenge pairs or table groups to write one grammatically correct, silly sentence that uses **both** words accurately within 60 seconds (e.g., "*The bad weather will **affect** our plans, but the **effect** will just be more video games!*"). Groups read theirs aloud, and the class votes on the funniest or creative sentence.

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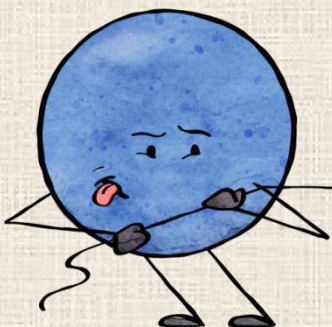
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