

Contents 目錄

Try it! ix

Answers x

學習 **homophones** 有甚麼好處? 1

認識 **puns** : “**Nothing to lose but your chains.**” 3

- 1 economic **aid**, a senior **aide** 4
- 2 infirmities that **ail** us, the bitter taste of **ale** 5
- 3 thrown to the **air**, **heir** to the throne 7
- 4 **all** its bearings, play with an **awl** 8
- 5 **allowed** us to speak **aloud** 9
- 6 **alter** your life, the **altar** 10
- 7 an **arc** of light, Noah's **Ark** 11
- 8 **aren't** going to, cabled her **aunt** 13
- 9 up in **arms**, live on **alms** 14
- 10 rapid **ascent**, have his **assent** 15

Practice 1 17

Answers 17

- 11 an **aural** delight, an **oral** message 18
- 12 kept him in **awe**, stick one's **oar** in 19
- 13 **bail** the project out, **bale** hay 20
- 14 **bald** words, **bawled** at us 21
- 15 **band** together, be **banned** from athletics 23
- 16 an oil **baron**, a **barren** island 24
- 17 get to the first **base**, a **bass** voice 25
- 18 **be** that as it may, have (got) a **bee** in one's bonnet 26
- 19 old **bean**, has **been** and won 27
- 20 **bear** a grudge, in **bare** feet 29

Practice 2 31

Answers 31

- 21 beat it, sweet corn and beet 32
 22 give a wide berth to someone, give birth to something 33
 23 grab a bite, stored ... byte 34
 24 blew all the fuses, feel blue 35
 25 bore into you, chase a boar 37
 26 born and bred, couldn't have borne to be alone 38
 27 bow to that bough 39
 28 The boys in blue, kept the buoys in line 41
 29 on the bread line, thoroughbred 42
 30 break in, brake at every bend 43

Practice 3 45

Answers 45

- 31 brewed a pot of coffee, brood on rows 46
 32 bridle at the suggestion, a bridal shower 47
 33 worth a browse, raised his brows 48
 34 build up character, be billed as something 49
 35 bury one's head in the sand, berry picking 50
 36 bust your knee, bussed in 51
 37 fly by, buy something 53
 38 under canvas, canvass for 54
 39 the carrot and the stick, a carat 55
 40 cash cow, a cache of illegal guns 56

Practice 4 59

Answers 59

- 41 wear a cast, a reliable indication of caste 60
 42 without good cause, remove cores 61
 43 impose a ceiling, sealing the flasks 62
 44 cereal product, adventure serial 63
 45 conquer a fear, the conker season 65
 46 a city council, counsel of your elders 66
 47 change course, coarse language 67

- 48 got **caught**, on **court** 68
49 **cruise** ship, the **crews** of ships 70
50 a strong **current**, a **currant** bun 71

Practice 5 73

Answers 73

- 51 has / have seen better **days**, in a complete **daze** 74
52 be a **dear**, The **Deer** Hunter 75
53 **desert** someone, What's for **dessert**? 76
54 avoid the **draft**, take a deep **draught** 77
55 after **due** consideration, morning **dew** 79
56 **earn** some money to buy an **urn** 80
57 **faint** voices, make a **feint** 81
58 long **fair** hair, full **fare** 82
59 a twist of **fate**, the school **fête** 84
60 a wonderful **father**, go **farther** 85

Practice 6 87

Answers 87

- 61 land on one's **feet**, a brilliant **feat** of something 88
62 dress with **flair**, the **flare** of the match 89
63 a **flawed** argument, the question **floored** him 90
64 come into **flower**, tablespoons of **flour** 91
65 has got **flu**, her hand **flew** to her mouth 92
66 **for** you, come to the **fore** 94
67 **fought** for a place, defend the **fort** 95
68 **foul** mouth, a **fowl** scratched for... 96
69 make the **fur** fly, **fir** trees 97
70 **gamble** on a recovery, **gambol** with newborn lambs 98

Practice 7 100

Answers 100

- 71 in **great** spirits, **grate** on 101
72 with a **groan**, have **grown** big 102

- 73 be my **guest**, you've **guessed** it 103
 74 a sense of **guilt**, the **gilt** of the ring 104
 75 **hail** a taxi, for the **hale** and hearty 105
 76 get in somebody's **hair**, as fast as a **hare** 107
 77 the dining **hall**, a long **haul** 108
 78 a folk **heroine**, smuggled out **heroin** 109
 79 **hi**, in **high** spirits 110
 80 a **hymn** of praise, it was **him** 111

Practice 8 113

Answers 113

- 81 eat a **horse**, in a **hoarse** voice 114
 82 May I, catch his **eye** 115
 83 **idle** curiosity, the **idol** of his family 116
 84 be **in** colour, a village **inn** 117
 85 wait on the **quay**, a **key** issue 118
 86 He who **knows** and **knows** that he **knows**, ...her **nose** is bleeding 120
 87 memory **lane**, has **lain** idle 121
 88 practise **law**, in theatrical **lore** 122
 89 a **leak** of gas, the stuffing of pork and **leek** 123
 90 at the **least** sign of trouble, **leased** my house to 124

Practice 9 127

Answers 127

- 91 **led** a demonstration, **lead** is a poison... 128
 92 **lent** colour to, **leant** forward to 129
 93 skip **lesson**, **lessen** the pain 130
 94 trading **links**, the **lynx**-eyed scrutiny 131
 95 on **loan**, **lone** drivers 133
 96 divide the **loot**, the strings of the **lute** 134
 97 Praise the **Lord**, **laud** the brave feats 135
 98 **made** no attempt to, nag at the **maid** 136
 99 **main** gripe, a **mane** of white hair 137

100 by mail, male preserve 139

Practice 10 141

Answers 141

101 friendly manner, an English manor house 142

102 martial arts, marshal support 143

103 the election of the mayor, a mare 144

104 a mean trick, serious mien 145

105 win the medal, meddle in my affairs 146

106 meet the needs of, no real meat in his speech 147

107 rust like metal, prove her mettle 149

108 be of like mind, be heavily mined 150

109 coal miners, sell alcohol to minors 151

110 missed the runway, mist lingered 153

Practice 11 155

Answers 155

111 mode of attire, the lawn be mowed 156

112 this morning, in mourning 157

113 take a lot of muscle, garnished with mussel 158

114 the Muse of Poetry, the cat mews 159

115 If need be, knead it well 160

116 new entrants, I knew... 161

117 Not surprisingly, undo this knot 163

118 or else, iron ore 164

119 his finest hour, the rest of our lives 165

120 overseas aid, oversees the work 167

Practice 12 169

Answers 169

121 in pain, frosty pane 170

122 pair off, picked a pear 171

123 a discerning palate, a cargo pallet 172

124 deadly pale, a pail of water 173

- 125 **pander** to her every whim, the giant **panda** 174
 126 **past** her youth, **passed** by 176
 127 **paste** up, **paced** the floor 177
 128 at **peak** hours, out of **pique** 178
 129 **peel** off, a **peal** of laughter 179
 130 **peer** group, on the **pier** 181

Practice 13 183

Answers 183

- 131 **pervade** the world, **purveyed** a message 184
 132 **phase** in, **faze** him 185
 133 **pidgin** English, a homing **pigeon** 186
 134 on a friendly **plane**, made it **plain** 187
 135 as you **please**, **pleas** for help 188
 136 a **plum** job, **plumb** the mystery 190
 137 a recent **poll**, around the **pole** 191
 138 **pour** out his troubles, **pore** over the problem 192
 139 jump the **queue**, takes his **cue** 193
 140 cataracts of **rain**, **rein** in your temper 195

Practice 14 197

Answers 197

- 141 **raise** me up, the sun's **rays** 198
 142 **raw** talent, the lion's **roar** 199
 143 **read** the situation, in the **red** 200
 144 in the **sack**, a closed **sac** 202
 145 set **sail**, make a **sale** 203
 146 **see** you home, overlooking the **sea** 204
 147 **cede** the point, **seed** money 206
 148 things **seem** bad, ripped at the **seam** 207
 149 have **seen** better days, shoot this **scene** 208

- 150 sees a thousand graces, seize the gun 209
- Practice 15** 211
Answers 211
- 151 sell these cars, put into the cell 212
- 152 temperature sensor, ...banned by the censor 213
- 153 sent up smoke, off the scent 214
- 154 sheer boredom, shear sheep 215
- 155 shoot the film, slide down the chute 216
- 156 on your side, sighed with relief 218
- 157 a common sight, cite Scripture 219
- 158 forego their sleighs, envy slays the simple 220
- 159 a tall tale, wagged its tail 221
- 160 taught us, the rope is taut 223
- Practice 16** 225
Answers 225
- 161 tee off, a lot of tea 226
- 162 the winning team, tourists teem in the streets 227
- 163 shed no tears, two tiers of management 228
- 164 their illnesses, agree with you there 229
- 165 occur through human error, threw her books 231
- 166 tick along fine, nervous tic 232
- 167 tied up the tide 233
- 168 for a long time, rosemary and thyme 234
- 169 the use of the hall, ewes from the lambing field 236
- 170 a vain effort, a weather vane 237
- Practice 17** 239
Answers 239
- 171 just you wait, lost weight 240
- 172 wore her hair in braids, war and famine 241
- 173 warn against, was worn out 242

- 174 waste your breath, around the **waist** 244
 175 a **wave** of horror, **waive** trial 245
 176 in a **way**, **weigh** yourself 246
 177 **week** in and **week** out, a **weak** speller 247
 178 soaking **wet**, **whet** your appetite 249
 179 a **whale** of a time, **wail** with terror 250
 180 **what** awful weather, a 60-**watt** soft light bulb 251

Practice 18 253

Answers 253

- 181 **where** it's at, porcelain **ware** 254
 182 **Whether** you like it or not, at the mercy of the **weather** 255
 183 I forget **which**, the heartless **witch** 256
 184 the **whole** thing, a **hole** in his argument 258
 185 **whose** turn, **who's** been working 259
 186 **wield** a pen, **wheeled** the baby 260
 187 the **whine** of the motors, the **wine** complements the food 261
 188 traditions will **wither**, his **whither** 263
 189 **won't** miss anything, his **wont** 264
 190 chips of **wood**, **would** relieve 265

Practice 19 267

Answers 267

- 191 **wrap** up the job, a sharp **rap** 268
 192 **wreak** havoc, the **reek** of evil 269
 193 the poor **wretch**, made me **retch** 270
 194 **wrote** a cheque, by **rote** 271
 195 **wry** smile, **rye** has many advantages 273
 196 the **yolk** will curdle, a **yoke** of oxen 274
 197 if **you** come back with a flea in your ear, an **ewe** lamb 275
 198 a penny for **your** thoughts, a hero of **yore** 276

Practice 20 278

Answers 278

Try it!

以下是 10 對同音異義字 (homophones)，左欄粗體字是每對的第一個字，請圈出正確答案。答案見後頁。

1. **cash** a) cask b) casque c) cache
2. **course** a) cause b) cores c) coarse
3. **band** a) banned b) bend c) bind
4. **bawled** a) ball b) bald c) bored
5. **days** a) dates b) they's c) daze
6. **fête** a) fat b) fate c) fey
7. **quay** a) kiln b) key c) quiet
8. **sleigh** a) sleeve b) slew c) slay
9. **seize** a) seas b) seeds c) sees
10. **taut** a) taught b) touch c) torch

Answers

1. c (請參閱 P. 56)
2. c (請參閱 P. 67)
3. a (請參閱 P. 23)
4. b (請參閱 P. 21)
5. c (請參閱 P. 74)
6. b (請參閱 P. 84)
7. b (請參閱 P. 118)
8. c (請參閱 P. 220)
9. c (請參閱 P. 209)
10. a (請參閱 P. 223)

學習 homophones 有甚麼好處？

趙 Sir： Henry，你知道 homophones 是甚麼嗎？

Henry： 我不太清楚，這個字看起來好像有點艱深。

趙 Sir： 別讓這個字嚇怕你。Homophones 是“同音異義字”，即“讀音相同，意義不同”的字，例如 blue 和 blew，bear 和 bare 等。

Henry： 這樣把一對對英文字搭配起來，對於學詞彙有幫助嗎？

趙 Sir： 很有幫助。此外，學習“同音異義字”還有不少好處，先舉出兩個：一、舉一反“二”，增強對英文讀音信心；二、增加對英文字的敏感度，從而提升對英文的鑑賞能力，步入英語文學的堂奧。

Henry： 趙 Sir，你愈講愈艱深，還是返回基本步，先解釋 homophones 如何令我們舉一反“二”吧。

趙 Sir： 好！以下這堆字難倒不少同學，因為串法古怪，若不查字典，同學必定不知所措：

boulder	cymbal
burgher	pear
canvass	plaice
chute	quay
colonel	suite

Henry： 驟眼看來，真把我難倒了，似乎沒有一個敢大聲唸出讀音來。趙 Sir，可否給我指點迷津？

趙 Sir： 如果我把這堆字與另一些字 pair up (成雙成對) 排起來，

你便可輕而易舉知道這些字的讀音了：

bolder, boulder	symbol, cymbal
burger, burgher	pair, pear
canvas, canvass	place, plaice
shoot, chute	key, quay
kernel, colonel	sweet, suite

Henry：果然一看便可讀出正確讀音，舉一反“二”。Homophones 又如何增加我們對英文字靈敏度？

趙 Sir：我記得莎士比亞 (William Shakespeare) 名著《凱撒大帝》(*Julius Caesar*) 開首說凱撒返回羅馬，人民夾道狂歡，護民官問一平民是哪個行業：“What trade art thou?” 那平民便說：“A trade sir, a mender of soles.” (“哪個行業，我是個補鞋匠。”) 但因 soles (鞋) 和 souls (靈魂) 同音，所以這句話還有另一個意思：“我是個靈魂修補者。”在文學裏，同音異義稱為“pun” (雙關語)，不少大作家都用 pun 來增加作品的趣味和可讀性。

Henry：很好玩！希望趙 Sir 多舉一些雙關語的例子。

認識 puns : “Nothing to lose but your chains.”

趙 Sir : 在開始介紹第一對同音異義字 (homophones) 之前，我多給你幾個 pun (雙關語) 的例子。

Henry : Pun 是 homophones 的一個小玩意，那便是將一個字的讀音，用另一個有趣方法來表達。

趙 Sir : 對！以下是一本影響全世界的小冊子其中重要的兩句，這本小冊子就是 Karl Marx (馬克思) 撰寫的 *The Communist Manifesto* (《共產黨宣言》) :

Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains.

(全世界的工人，團結起來；除了你們的鐵鏈，你們沒有損失。)

Henry : 句子的 pun 在哪裏？

趙 Sir : 就在 “lose” 這個字，原來 lose 的同音字是 loose。若把句中的 “lose” (損失) 改為 loose (解除)，意思便變成：“你們一定可把鐵鏈除下來。” 這個意思不是更好嗎？

Henry : 更好！還有另一個例子嗎？

趙 Sir : 另一個例子可在 *Alice in the Wonderland* (《愛麗絲夢遊仙境》) 中找到。有一次，愛麗絲遇到海龜 Mock Turtle，他們有以下對話：

“And how many hours a day did you do lessons?”

(“你每日上幾小時課？”)

“Ten hours the first day, nine the next and so on.”

(“第一日十小時，第二日九小時，如此類推。”))

“What a curious plan.”

(“安排得很奇怪。”))

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

(“這便是他們把上課叫做 lessons 的原因，lessons 愈上愈少 (lessen) 也。”)

Henry : 原來趣味就在 “lesson” 與 “lessen” 音同意異。

趙 Sir : Exactly. 同書還有另一個 pun 。有一次，愛麗絲遇到伯爵夫人 (the Duchess)，愛麗絲說：

“The earth takes 24 hours to turn on its axis.”

(“地球用二十四小時。在軸上自轉”)

The Queen said, “Talking of axes, off with her head!”

(女王說：“你提起斧頭 (axes，與軸心 (axis) 同音)，人來，拉她出去斬頭！”)

Henry : 侍女王如侍虎，又一好例子！

1 economic aid, a senior aide

趙 Sir : 第一對和你分享的 homophones (同音異義字) 是 aid 和 aide 。

Henry : 兩字讀音都是 /erd/，不過意思不同吧。

趙 Sir : Aid 有三個意思，第一個是“援助、救助”，例如：

The UN provided emergency economic aid to the refugees.

(聯合國給難民提供了緊急的經濟援助。)

She said the government should spend more on overseas aid.

(她說政府應該增加海外援助。)

Henry : 在這個意義下，aid 一般是用單數嗎？

趙 Sir : 是。因為“援助、救助”是不能計算的 (uncountable)。Aid 另一意思是“幫助”，搭配詞是 enlist 或 seek，例如：

The police tried to enlist the aid of the public in solving the crime.

(警方試圖請社會大眾協助破案。)

Henry : 那麼 aid 的第三個意思是甚麼 ?

趙 Sir : 是“輔助物”，例如：

Songs can be very useful as memory **aids**.

(用歌曲來輔助記憶非常有用。)

除了以上名詞 (noun) 用法，aid 亦可作動詞 (verb)，意思是“幫助、援助”，例如：

Gentle exercise **aids** blood circulation around the body.

(溫和的運動有助全身血液循環。)

Henry : Aide 又如何 ?

趙 Sir : Aide 是指“助手、助理”，例如：

He is a senior **aide** to the Prime Minister.

(他是首相的高級助理。)

Henry : 趙 Sir，有關於 aid 的 pun 嗎 ?

趙 Sir : 以下便是：

Those that sing for charity have a band **aid** solution.

(那些義唱的人是用歌聲來幫助別人。)

不過，band-aid 也是名牌膠布的名字，意思是“暫時的”，所以這句的另一意思是：“那些義唱的人只是暫時幫助別人。”

Henry : 幫忙總好過不幫忙！

2 infirmities that **ail** us, the bitter taste of **ale**

趙 Sir : Ail 和 ale 音同意異，你知道它們的意思嗎 ?

Henry : Ail 似乎是指“干擾”，但 ale 則不清楚了，請告訴我吧。

趙 Sir : 稍後才揭曉答案。先談 ail，正如你所說，意思是“困擾、干擾、使麻煩”，例如：

It may provide answers to some of the problems that **ail** America.

(這一點可能解答困擾美國的某些問題。)

Henry : 其實有哪些問題困擾美國？

趙 Sir : 至少有兩個：一、財赤。美國負債纍纍，印銀紙印到“手軟”都未夠；二、做世界警察。看到全世界有不合理的事總要插手解決，例如烏克蘭事件。

Henry : 其實美國自身難保，又時常出口兼出手，真是不明所以？

趙 Sir : 美國自稱是民主保衛者，為了推銷民主，到處撲火兼點火，所以有論者稱美國人是“Ugly American”呢。以下是 **ail** 的另一例句：

To redress these wrongs, sweeping new regulatory powers will treat the infirmities that **ail** us.

(全新的監管權力將會治癒困擾我們的病痛，糾正這些錯誤。)

Henry : 還得看這些所謂全新的監管權力能否大公無私，例如最近高鐵工程延誤風波，港鐵主席在股東大會只宣佈港鐵行政總裁韋達誠約滿不再續約，但不續約不應視作懲罰，扣減花紅及港鐵股份才是！

趙 Sir : 完全同意。至於 **ale**，意思是“啤酒、麥酒”，例如：

He liked the bitter taste of **ale**.

(他喜歡麥酒的苦味。)

He drank his **ale** and stood up ready to clap.

(他喝了一口啤酒，坐直身子準備鼓掌。)

Life isn't all cakes and **ale**, you know.

(要知道生活並非都是吃喝玩樂。)

Henry : 對！生活除了吃喝玩樂，還有其他東西。

趙 Sir : 生活就像五味架，有甜酸苦辣鹹！