

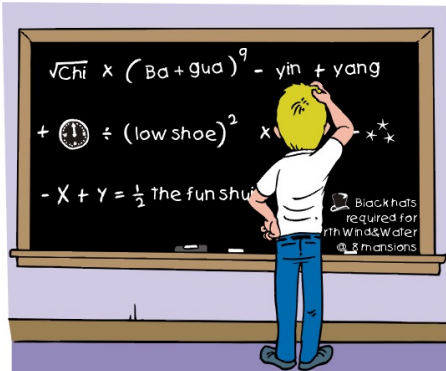
Hello everyone!

The topics for this week's class, Friday August 13, are: [Homophones, Homographs and Homonyms / Idioms in the News / Personal Challenge](#)

At the end of last weeks class, you requested to learn a bit more about homophones and idioms. Also, some are looking for tips on how to improve progress in learning/acquiring English.

We will participate in three activities:

- 1) Review the complicated and tricky rules of homophones, homographs and homonyms.
- 2) Idioms in the news – we will look at the use of idioms in recent news articles.
- 3) Do you want to make more progress in your English? Let's take some risks!



Homophones are Tricky!



American media uses idioms –a lot!



What will you do?

Which word is a homonym? A homophone? A homograph?

bow

tear

meet



99.999% of native English speakers  
do not know any of these terms

Homographs?

Homophones?



Homonyms?

eslann.com

# homophones, homographs and homonyms

**Homophones** – words that sound alike but are spelled differently.

flour flower



**Homographs** – spelled the same but have different meanings and may be pronounced differently.

minute minute

**Homonyms** – spelled the same AND pronounced the same, but have different meanings.

bark bark

# Tips for learning homophones, homographs and homonyms

- Memorizing word pairs is not productive
- Learn each word one at a time
- Learn each word in **context**



# The takeaways:

- It's complicated!

Just know that some words in English:

- Have more than one meaning
- Have more than one pronunciation



## It's Complicated!

HOMONYMS	HOMOPHONES	HOMOGRAPHS
<i>multiple meaning words</i>	<i>words that sound alike</i>	<i>same spelling, different pronunciation, different meanings</i>
the <b>spruce</b> tree... to <b>spruce</b> up...	<b>addition</b> for math <b>edition</b> of a book	<b>desert</b> = abandon <b>desert</b> = area of land
<b>suit</b> yourself... wore a <b>suit</b> ...	I want <b>to</b> go I like it <b>too</b> One plus one is <b>two</b>	<b>bass</b> = fish <b>bass</b> = instrument
weigh on the <b>scale</b> ... <b>scale</b> the wall...	<b>capitol</b> building state <b>capital</b>	<b>close</b> = nearby <b>close</b> = to shut
the price is <b>fair</b> ... go to the <b>fair</b> ...	pick a <b>flower</b> bake with <b>flour</b>	<b>bow</b> = to bend down <b>bow</b> = ribbon

# Idioms in the news –they're everywhere!



1. “Olympic track athletes Thompson, Fraser and Jackson lead Jamaica's **clean sweep** of 100m medals.”
2. “14 year old diver from China is **on track** to win her fourth gold medal.”
3. “The 4 major **takeaways** from the \$1.8 trillion economic spending package.”
4. "I think the ability to **spread the word** about it via the Internet is adding some **fuel to the fire**. “

---

**The Mercury News**

---



## Idioms in the news –they're everywhere!



5. “The doctor did not **mince words** as he addressed the students about the dangers of smoking.”
6. “Demand at local food bank rises over 50% as the pandemic has caused many people to be **on the street**.”
7. “That's why when school board members talk of a change in the academic calendar, everyone is **all ears**.”
8. “Artisanal olive oil is **all the rage** these days, with orchards and presses springing up from Napa to Livermore. – San Jose Mercury News.”

---

**The Mercury News**

---

## Want to “up your game” in English conversation skills?

Step away from your books, websites, ESL classes (except conversation classes!)

Look for any opportunity to have real life conversations in English:

- Join an organization –book club, gym, choir, dance group, sport team etc.
- Take classes in English in something you’re interested: photography, cooking, travel, music, computers, etc.
- Shop in English speaking grocery stores: Safeway, Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s, etc.
- Volunteer – local library, school, hospital, daycare, food banks, senior center.
- Find a language partner – someone who speaks English and is interesting in acquiring your native language.

***Get out of your comfort zone!***

eslann.com



What will you do?

# Idioms in the news definitions:

**Clean sweep** – won all of the prizes/awards, to take everything.

**On track** - acting or thinking in a way that is likely to achieve what is required.

**Takeaways** - a key fact, point or idea to be remembered, typically from a discussion or meeting.

**Spread the word** – to tell many people

**On the street** – losing a home or apartment and having nowhere to live.

**Don't mince words** - to speak in a very direct and honest way without worrying about offending someone.

**Fuel to the fire** – make a bad situation worse.

**All ears** - They mean that they are ready and eager to listen.

**All the rage** – something that is “very popular” now.

**Up your game** – try harder and improve your skill level