WHAT IS A HOMONYM?
The Purdue Owl defines homonyms as, “words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings.” What does this mean? It means that it's understandable to mix them up because they sound the same; however, they don’t mean the same things, and some are even different parts of speech.

**Affect/effect**
- *Affect* is a verb, and it means "to act on"
  Ex. Poor grammar AFFECTS most Americans.
- *Effect* is a noun, and it means “a result”
  Ex. Language skills have a positive EFFECT in life.

**Too/to/two**
- *Too* is an adverb meaning “also” or “as well”
  Ex. Are you coming, TOO?
- *To* is a preposition used for expressing direction
  Ex. I want TO go TO the beach.
- *Two* is a noun indicating the number which proceeds one.
  Ex. I have TWO roommates.

**Their/there/they're**
- *Their* is a pronoun, which is the possessive case of they
  Ex. THEIR outlook on life is admirable.
- *There* is an adverb indicating direction or place
  Ex. Look over THERE!
- *They're* is a contraction meaning “they are”
  Ex. THEY'RE some of the greatest people you'll ever meet.

**Accept/except**
- *Accept* is a verb meaning “to take” or “to receive”
  Ex. I was ACCEPTED into the University of my dreams.
- *Except* is a preposition, and it implies exclusion
  Ex. Everyone went to the writing center, except me.

**Hear/here**
- *Hear* is a verb meaning "to have listened"
  Ex. I didn't HEAR what you said.
- *Here* is an adverb meaning “in this place”
  Ex. Could you please come over HERE?

**Passed/past**
- *Passed* is an adjective implying the completion of the act of passing OR the past tense of the verb “to pass”
  Ex. I PASSED my English test!
- *Past* is an adjective meaning “gone by” or “in elapsed time”
  Ex. Poor grammar skills are in my PAST.

**Then/than**
- *Then* is an adverb meaning “at that time”
  Ex. Read this worksheet, THEN watch your English skills improve.
- *Than* is conjunction used to compare two things
  Ex. I probably like making this sheet more THAN you like reading it.
Whose/who’s
- Whose is a pronoun, and it is the possessive case of who
  Ex. WHOSE jacket is this?
- Who’s is a contraction meaning “who is”
  Ex. WHO’S going to the concert tonight?

Its/it’s
- Its is the possessive form of it
  Ex. The book lost ITS value after I spilled my drink on it.
- It’s is a contraction meaning “it is”
  Ex. IT’S hard to explain how much I love the English language.

Lose/loose
- Lose is a verb meaning “to come to be without”
  Ex. My mom asked me not to LOSE her car keys, but I did.
- Loose is an adjective meaning “free” or “unbound”
  Ex. When I lost weight, my jeans were LOOSE on me.

Your/you’re
- Your is a pronoun, and it is the possessive case of you
  Ex. I am here to help you with YOUR paper.
- You’re is a contraction meaning “you are”
  Ex. YOU’RE a trooper for making it through this worksheet!

Which/that/who/whom
- Which is a pronoun meaning “what one” or “whichever”
  Ex. I don’t know WHICH ice cream flavor to choose.
- That is a pronoun meaning “what thing/idea/state”
  Ex. Homonyms are something THAT I mix up a lot.
- Who is a pronoun meaning “what person/persons,” and it always acts as the subject
  Ex. He is the person WHO you want to talk to about interviews.
- Whom has the same definition as who; however, it acts as the direct object
  Ex. To WHOM are you sending that gift?

Whether/weather
- Whether is an idiom meaning “regardless”
  Ex. I’m going to the store, WHETHER you want me to or not.
- Weather is a noun referring to the temperature or climate
  Ex. The WEATHER has been lovely lately!

Farther/further
- Farther is an adverb describing something that is in the distance. It always refers to a literal distance (something you can measure)
  Ex. Upper Deck is FARTHER than the Bistro from Gaige Hall.
- Further is an adverb which also describes something that is in the distance. However, further refers to an abstract distance (something which cannot be measured).
  Ex. I wish to FURTHER my education after Millersville.

* For more help with homonyms, check out Alan Cooper’s Homonym list at:
  http://www.cooper.com/alan/homonym_list.html
** All definitions gathered from the Dictionary.com iPhone Application