Homophones and homographs

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each homograph with its two meanings.

1 bat	____	a equal or reasonable / public event
2 bank	____	b flying mammal / sports equipment
3 bark	____	c financial institution / side of a river
4 fair	____	d outer layer of a tree / sound made by a dog
5 match	____	e season / jump or coil
6 ring	____	f contest or partner / small stick for making fire
7 spring	____	g circular band / sound or telephone call
8 wave	____	h moving ridge of water / move your hand in greeting

2 Complete the homophone collocations.

allowed | **brake** | **course** | **principal** | **stationary** | **steal** | **weather** | **whether**

1 apply the _____

2 a main _____

3 remain _____

4 the school _____

5 not _____ to enter

6 _____ a wallet

7 bad _____

8 decide _____ to go

3 Correct one confused word in each sentence.

1 The car's *break* failed. _____

2 The children were not *aloud* inside. _____

3 The *principle* welcomed the parents. _____

4 The van remained *stationery*. _____

5 I do not know *weather* she agreed. _____

6 He tried to *steel* the bicycle. _____

7 The ship changed its *coarse*. _____

8 The dog's *bank* woke us. _____

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4 Complete the report with words from the box.

allowed | bank | bark | brake | course | principal | stationary | whether

Our school **1** _____ organised a walk along the river **2** _____. We were not **3** _____ to leave the path. A dog began to **4** _____ as a cyclist approached. He used his **5** _____ and remained **6** _____ until the dog moved. We discussed **7** _____ to continue and finally changed our **8** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Homographs and context

Homographs share the same spelling but have different meanings. Some also have different pronunciations: the noun record has first-syllable stress, while the verb record has second-syllable stress. Other homographs, such as bank, keep the same pronunciation. Grammar, nearby words and the wider situation help readers select the intended meaning.

1 What do homographs share? _____

2 Must their meanings be the same? _____

3 Do all homographs have different pronunciations? _____

4 Where is the stress in the noun record? _____

5 Where is the stress in the verb record? _____

6 What three clues identify the intended meaning? _____

6 Rewrite using the word in capitals.

1 She moved her hand to say goodbye. **WAVED** _____

2 The dog made a loud sound. **BARKED** _____

3 The river rose over its side. **BANK** _____

4 He made an audio file of the interview. **RECORDED** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** short scene using four homographs and four homophone pairs. Make every meaning clear.

[ ] Use at least ten target words. [ ] Use spelling accurately. [ ] Provide strong grammatical and contextual clues.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Homographs

1 **b** 2 **c** 3 **d** 4 **a** 5 **f** 6 **g** 7 **e** 8 **h**

2 Homophone collocations

1 **brake** 2 **course** 3 **stationary** 4 **principal** 5 **allowed** 6 **steal** 7 **weather** 8 **whether**

3 Corrections

1 **brake** 2 **allowed** 3 **principal** 4 **stationary**
5 **whether** 6 **steal** 7 **course** 8 **bark**

4 School report

1 **principal** 2 **bank** 3 **allowed** 4 **bark** 5 **brake** 6 **stationary** 7 **whether** 8 **course**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Spelling. 2 No. 3 No. 4 The first syllable. 5 The second syllable.
6 Grammar, nearby words and the wider situation.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She **waved** goodbye. 2 The dog **barked**. 3 The river overflowed its **bank**. 4 He **recorded** the interview.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check lexical choice, spelling and disambiguating context.