Homophones and homographs

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each heteronym with its pronunciation and meaning contrast.

1 lead	____	a DUZ: performs / DOHZ: female deer
2 wind	____	b OB-jekt: thing / ub-JEKT: protest
3 tear	____	c LEED: guide / LED: metal
4 bow	____	d REF-yoos: waste / ri-FYOOZ: decline
5 row	____	e MIN-it: sixty seconds / my-NYOOT: tiny
6 minute	____	f BOH: weapon or bend / BOW: lower the body
7 object	____	g ROH: line / ROW: quarrel
8 refuse	____	h TAIR: rip / TEER: drop from the eye
9 desert	____	i DEZ-uht: dry region / di-ZURT: abandon
10 does	____	j WIND: moving air / WYND: turn

2 Complete the formal expressions with commonly confused words.

allude | **assent** | **council** | **discreet** | **elicit** | **precede** | **stationary** | **waive**

1 _____ to an earlier event

2 give formal _____

3 the city _____

4 remain _____

5 _____ a response

6 _____ the main speaker

7 be _____ about the issue

8 _____ the fee

3 Choose the precise word for the context.

1 The report will *cite / site* three studies.

2 The building *site / sight* is protected.

3 The adviser gave wise *counsel / council*.

4 The local *council / counsel* approved the plan.

5 The question may *elicit / illicit* a response.

6 They uncovered an *illicit / elicit* trade.

7 She was *discreet / discrete* about the complaint.

8 The model contains three *discrete / discreet* stages.

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4 Complete the editorial note with words from the box.

allude | assent | council | discreet | elicit | object | precede | refuse | stationary | waive

The city **1** _____ asked residents to give their **2** _____ to a revised plan. A short introduction will **3** _____ the debate and **4** _____ to earlier consultations. Questions should **5** _____ specific evidence. Those who **6** _____ may state their reasons. Officials will be **7** _____ with personal data and may **8** _____ the application fee. Vehicles must remain **9** _____ outside, and staff may **10** _____ entry after closing time.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Reading ambiguous forms
A heteronym is a homograph whose pronunciation changes with meaning. Readers normally resolve the form before speaking it aloud by using syntax and semantics. In The wind will wind the sail, the article identifies the first wind as a noun, while will marks the second as a verb. Unfamiliar subject matter can still cause hesitation, so dictionaries provide pronunciation, word class and sense labels.

1 What is a heteronym? _____

2 What two systems help readers resolve it? _____

3 What identifies the first wind as a noun? _____

4 What marks the second wind as a verb? _____

5 When may hesitation remain? _____

6 Which three kinds of dictionary information help? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 The committee removed the charge. **WAIVED** _____

2 The question produced a detailed answer. **ELICITED** _

3 She referred indirectly to the dispute. **ALLUDED** __

4 He protested against the proposal. **OBJECTED** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** guide explaining how context resolves homophones, homographs and heteronyms. Include precise examples.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Distinguish spelling, sound and meaning. [ ] Explain grammatical clues.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Heteronyms

1 **c** 2 **j** 3 **h** 4 **f** 5 **g** 6 **e** 7 **b** 8 **d** 9 **i** 10 **a**

2 Formal expressions

1 **allude** 2 **assent** 3 **council** 4 **stationary** 5 **elicit** 6 **precede** 7 **discreet** 8 **waive**

3 Precise words

1 **cite** 2 **site** 3 **counsel** 4 **council**
5 **elicit** 6 **illicit** 7 **discreet** 8 **discrete**

4 Editorial note

1 **council** 2 **assent** 3 **precede** 4 **allude** 5 **elicit**
6 **object** 7 **discreet** 8 **waive** 9 **stationary** 10 **refuse**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 A homograph pronounced differently by meaning. 2 Syntax and semantics. 3 The article.
4 Will. 5 With unfamiliar subject matter. 6 Pronunciation, word class and sense labels.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The committee **waived** the charge. 2 The question **elicited** a detailed answer. 3 She **alluded** to the dispute. 4 He **objected** to the proposal.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check terminology, pronunciation contrasts and contextual reasoning.