

Also, in a language without ambiguity, the humorous (but real) newspaper headlines in (3) wouldn't be humorous at all, and wouldn't that be a shame? What makes the examples in (2) and (3) humorous, assuming you find them humorous, is precisely the lack of clarity in English that we've been discussing. Specifically, it's the lexical ambiguity that creates the humor. In each headline, there is a word or words that can have multiple meanings, and one of these meanings is clearly inappropriate for the context. One might say, then, that a lack of linguistic clarity adds a little spice to life.

- (3) a. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
 b. Is There A Ring Of Debris Around Uranus?
 c. Prostitutes Appeal To Pope
 d. Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should Be Belted
 e Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge
 f. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Test your knowledge of English homophones with the exercise below. For each word given below, think of a homophone. Whenever possible, try to think of two homophones for each word. The first one has been done for you.

| | | |
|--------|-----|-----|
| to | too | two |
| do | | |
| pair | | |
| raise | | |
| air | | |
| there | | |
| right | | |
| sight | | |
| weigh | | |
| need | | |
| praise | | |
| by | | |

Transcription Exercises

E2.3 Celebrity Names

Using the transcription provided, spell out each name using regular English orthography.

1. /ʃerisaynfɛld/

9. /arnɛldʃwartsənɛgə/

2. /piwihəmən/

10. /dɛnəsðlɛnɛs/

3. /kwɪnəlɪzəbɛθ/

11. /səriŋəwɪlyəmz/

4. /ʃækɪçən/

12. /mɑntgʌmriβɛnz/

5. /rɑnɛldmækdanɛld/

13. /mɑgrətθæçə/

6. /oprəwmfri/

14. /kɑndəlɪzərəys/

7. /lətrɛlsprɪwɛl/

15. /kɑrmənələktɹə/

8. /mɑrʃsɪmpsn/

16. /ðiɑrtɛstfɔrməlɪnɔnæzprɪns/

E2.4 Sports Words

Transcribe each of the following words using the phonetic symbols in this chapter. Don't forget to enclose each transcription in slanted lines // to indicate the phonetic symbols.

1. bat

9. basket

2. glove

10. official

3. gym

11. statistic

4. coach

12. manager

5. driver

13. fantasy

6. cycle

14. stadium

7. hockey

15. televise

8. helmet

16. spectator