

## Writing Basics → Painting a Word Picture

Level: High School

*Word play is one way writers make their descriptions interesting. From long before William Shakespeare to long after J. K. Rowling, authors have used and will continue to use word play to catch readers' attention and to emphasize a point. Some examples play on meaning, many play on sounds, and some play on both.*

- pentagon (the shape) -- Pentagon (the place)
- may (permission) -- May (the month)
- flower (plant) -- flour (for baking)
- I'll (I will) -- aisle (between rows)
- some others -- some mothers
- bow (weapon) -- bow (bend in reverence) -- bow (hair or gift ornament)
- fire (in a hearth) -- fire (to take away one's job) -- fire (to shoot a gun)

Practice writing your own word play by writing sentences using the following word types. If you need help, use the word pairs above and/or watch the related slide presentation again.

### 1. homonyms

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### 2. homophones

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### 3. homographs

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4. heteronyms

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5. capitonyms

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6. synonyms

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7. oronyms

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