Tom Mohan

A homophone quiz

English is full of homophones, that is words with the same sound but different spellings and meanings, for example meat/meet, sail/sale etc. Homophones can lead to confusion, but they are often good for jokes, as there is a play upon words.

See if you can spot the homophones in each pair or group of sentences. Perhaps you'd like to try the exercise on your students.

*

1 The ball was ☐☐☐☐☐☐ in the ☐☐☐.

The king's eldest son is the ☐☐☐☐ to the ☐☐☐☐☐☐.

2 A rose is a fragrant ☐☐☐☐☐☐.

Bread is made from ☐☐☐☐☐☐ and other things.

3 As I was going up a ☐☐☐☐☐☐
I met a man who wasn't there.
(From a well-known rhyme)

It's rude to ☐☐☐☐☐☐ at people.

4 The plane climbed ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ and ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ and disappeared from sight.

At the seaside you can ☐☐☐☐ a deckchair.

5 There's a ☐☐☐☐ in my bucket.

We spent the ☐☐☐☐☐☐ day cutting grass.

6 They ☐☐☐☐☐☐ him out of the pub because of his outrageous behaviour.

Walking ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ the forest, we met the big bad wolf.

7 Dr Killer killed all his ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐.

Fishing is like language learning, you need lots of ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐.

8 We joined the navy to ☐☐☐ the world.

And what did we ☐☐☐? We saw the ☐☐☐.
(From an old song)

9 Queen Victoria had a long ☐☐☐☐☐☐, from 1837 to 1901.

Take an umbrella, it looks like ☐☐☐☐ .

10 This ☐☐☐☐ of shoes is just the right size.

Do you like apples?

Do you like ☐☐☐☐ s?
Do you like tumbling
Down the stairs?

11 The north of Germany is a large ☐☐☐☐☐, it's as flat as a pancake.

The Concorde is a supersonic ☐☐☐☐☐.

12 The teacher drew a rabbit on the ☐☐☐☐☐ but we all thought it was a donkey.

We were so ☐☐☐☐☐ by Professor Puffer's lecture that we fell asleep.

13 During a war people long for ☐☐☐☐☐.

I need a ☐☐☐☐☐ of chalk to write on the blackboard.

I'm sure you will find most of these very easy, but your students probably won't be able to do them all. Just in case, here are the answers:
1 thrown/air – heir/throne · 2 flower/flour · 3 stair/stare · 4 higher and higher/hire · 5 hole/whole
6 threw/through · 7 patients/patience · 8 see/see/sea · 9 reign/rain · 10 pair/pear · 11 plain/plane
12 board/bored · 13 peace/piece